



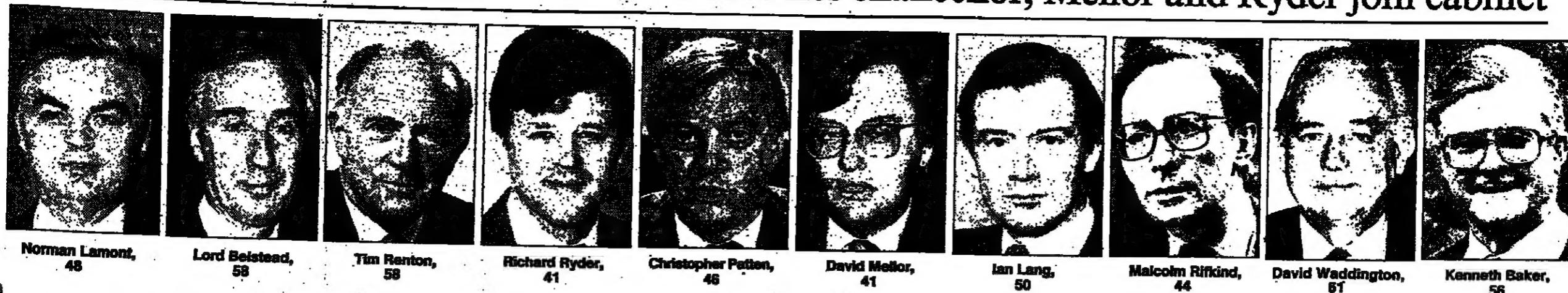
No 63,876

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29 1990

Overseas Edition

35p

Campaign leaders rewarded as Lamont becomes chancellor, Mellor and Ryder join cabinet



Major hands poll tax to Heseltine

Patten replaces Baker as chairman; Parkinson quits

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major moved swiftly yesterday to rebuild Conservative party unity by restoring Michael Heseltine to the cabinet as environment secretary, where he will oversee poll tax reform, and by appointing Chris Patten, who led Douglas Hurd's campaign team, the new party chairman.

Mr Major, who dismissed no one, gave the prime post of Chancellor of the Exchequer to his own campaign manager, Norman Lamont, previously chief secretary to the Treasury. Richard Ryder, the other key strategist in the Major campaign for No 10, becomes chief whip.

Douglas Hurd, as expected,

Labour backs one currency

Labour's national executive agreed that it would be against the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from full monetary union in Europe and the establishment of the single currency. The statement was a clear attempt to outflank the government on a policy where there are deep Conservative divisions. Page 5

Vicar guilty

The Rev Tom Tyler, aged 51, was ordered out of his parish in the West Sussex village of Henfield after he was found guilty of adultery with his curate's wife and a married parishioner. Page 9

County doomed
Humberside, the county created in 1974, faces abolition after the Local Government Boundary Commission recommended that it be split between Lincolnshire and a new authority covering east Yorkshire. Page 11

Fish famine

Unless four out of every ten fishing boats in the European Community are scrapped, there will soon be no cod, haddock or other species left to fish in the North Sea. Manuel Marin, the fisheries commissioner said. Page 14

ICI warning

ICI told its 134,000 employees by letter that it would seek to reduce its waste by 50 per cent over the next five years and plants which do not meet the new standards will face closure. Page 31

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is to stay on as foreign secretary. There will be no women in the cabinet, whose average age drops from 53.3 to 51.8. Only two new names are added to the team which Mrs Thatcher left.

David Mellor, the arts minister and another of the Major campaign team, receives his long-awaited promotion to the cabinet as chief secretary to the Treasury, and Ian Lang, previously minister of state and another Major campaigner, becomes Scottish secretary. Mr Lang and Mr Ryder become privy counsellors.

Cecil Parkinson, the former transport secretary, submitted his resignation before the cabinet-making began, having told his constituency party the night before that he did not intend to fight the next election. Lord Belstead, the previous Leader of the House of Lords, has been dropped but will stay on in the government as a minister of state.

David Waddington, previously home secretary, is to receive a peerage and will become Leader of the House of Lords as Lord Privy Seal. That will mean a by-election early in the new year in his Ribble Valley constituency. Mr Waddington's majority at the last election was 19,528 (39.4 per cent), a safe enough margin provided that the government's honeymoon in the opinion polls continues.

Kenneth Baker, formerly the party chairman, takes over as home secretary in what Tory MPs were last night calling a carefully balanced cabinet. Malcolm Rifkind, formerly Scottish secretary, succeeds Mr Parkinson as transport secretary.

There were rumours around the Commons last night that some ministers had initially balked at the offers they were given and that Mr Baker had not been first choice for home secretary. Sources insisted last night, however, that each minister was content with the offer made to him and said that no one other than Mr Baker had been offered the Home Office.

Mr Heseltine, back in the cabinet for the first time since he left over the Westland affair in January 1986, will have to find a way of reforming the poll tax, which the three leadership candidates promised to amend. Mr Patten has already delivered to the new prime minister on the new prime minister op-

er.

RONALD Reagan published his autobiography with much fanfare earlier this month, but American readers are proving less enthusiastic about the last president's memoirs than they are for another inside account of White House life — one seen from the point of view of the dog.

To the embarrassment of Simon and Schuster, the publishers who paid \$6 million (£3 million) in advance for Mr Reagan's *An American Life*, the memoirs are being overshadowed in the best-seller charts by the memoirs of Mildred Kent Bush, the First Dog. Both memoirs, which are vying for the Christmas rush, are ghost-written. Mr Rea-

gan's dictation was spun into 748 pages for him by a former *New York Times* reporter and a team of editors. *Millie's Book*, which has now spent nine weeks high on the best-seller lists, was "dictated" to Barbara Bush and polished by editors at William Morrow.

While Mr Reagan has been doing the new author's rounds of the talk shows, the sprightly spaniel has left the job to her collaborator, who is donating the profits to a literacy fund.

Reviewers have been kinder to the canine confessions than to Mr Reagan's efforts, which revealed no juicy White House titbits and nothing beyond the already published record of his years in office.



Together at last: John Major and Michael Heseltine emphasising party unity yesterday

Interest rates hope

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR



Fall report, page 31

Tales from the White House

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

RONALD Reagan published his autobiography with much fanfare earlier this month, but American readers are proving less enthusiastic about the last president's memoirs than they are for another inside account of White House life — one seen from the point of view of the dog.

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Iraq warned on eve of UN vote

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NORMAN LAMONT, the new Chancellor, will enjoy a brief window of opportunity to cut British interest rates before Christmas, because Germany is almost certain to delay any tightening of its monetary policies until February or March, when the Bundesbank considers an upward move in interest rates likely. A British decision to cut rates, in the wake of a German move in the opposite direction, would undermine confidence in the pound and in the government's commitment to abide by the rules of the EMS.

THE anti-Iraq alliance sent force. But he declined to say whether China would veto the resolution or allow it to pass by abstaining.

The resolution, which authorises the use of "all means necessary" to drive Iraq from Kuwait if its forces do not pull out before the deadline, is expected to pass with a clear majority. Only Cuba and Yemen on the 15-nation council are expected to vote against. Colombia and Malaysia are wavering between abstention and a positive vote, diplomats say.

A Chinese veto is considered extremely unlikely in view of the fact that the Chinese foreign minister is scheduled to travel on after the vote to Washington, where he was expected to meet President Bush. Mr Qian's visit will be the first trip to Washington by a Chinese leader since the US banned high-level exchanges after the killings last year in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

James Baker was due to arrive in New York yesterday to begin a round of bilateral meetings with other security council foreign ministers.

The US was confident it could resist pressure for an embarrassing vote in the security council on a resolution which would expand the mandate of UN observers in the territories to include protection of the Palestinians there.

Mr Baker believes he has enough support to delay a vote that could lead to a US veto.

Peace chance, page 12
Syrian links, page 30

Swift action to stamp mark on government

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FROM the moment he arrived on the steps of 10 Downing Street yesterday John Major moved swiftly to stamp his style and authority on the government.

Whoever followed Margaret Thatcher as Conservative leader and prime minister faced a difficult task but by last night he had seized the initiative and begun the job of proving that he was his own man. He had announced a cabinet reshuffle, much more extensive than had been expected, and had brought back into the fold Michael Heseltine, the minister who walked out on Mrs Thatcher nearly five years ago and who she never asked to return.

In another important break with the Thatcher era, Mr Major replaced Bernard Ingman, the Downing Street press secretary, whose numerous but off-the-record briefings came to symbolise the combative and defiant manner of his mistress, with his own man from the Treasury, Gus O'Donnell, aged 38, the product of a plate glass university.

On entering No 10, Margaret Thatcher struck a decimating note that was to characterise her 11 years in power. Quoting St Francis of Assisi, she promised to bring harmony, truth and hope to Britain but instead ushered in an era characterised by division and contention.

Mr Major put aside such rhetoric yesterday as he stood with his wife Norma at his side. He set himself the more mundane task of building a country "at ease with itself" and improving the quality of

life for all. As for reconciliation, he let his actions speak for him, shaking hands with Michael Heseltine at the gate-way to supreme political power.

The classless man was on show from the start. After his first speech as prime minister, he was asked by photographers to pose in front of the No 10 door. As a policeman moved forward to close the door, Mr Major did it himself.

The charm of the Major is their very ordinariness. Despite being in the cabinet for three years, he still looks ill at ease when he waves for the benefit of the cameras. His wife looks even more overwhelmed. They are not going to let his elevation to the highest office of state change their lifestyle. Mrs Major will continue to spend most of the week at their home in Great Staughton, looking after their two teenage children. Several MPs said last night that their unpretentious style was refreshing and would prove attractive to the country.

His managerial style was shown in the decisive and calm manner in which he carried out a reshuffle that surprised Westminster by its far-reaching nature. He promoted fresh faces from his own generation and younger across all wings of the party. It was in strong contrast to some of the later Thatcher cabinet reshuffles. He has excited his MPs and he hopes the country as well. On Tuesday it was Margaret Thatcher's cabinet but by last night there was no doubt in anyone's mind that it was John Major's cabinet.

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Parkinson's final goodbye to what might have been

By MICHAEL DYNE, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CECIL Parkinson, the son of a Lancashire railwayman who rose to become the Essex at the court of Margaret, resigned as transport secretary yesterday, after declaring his intention not to stand at the next general election.

After offering his resignation to John Major, the prime minister, Mr Parkinson said he was "delighted that we have elected such a fine leader to succeed Margaret Thatcher, and although I will not be working in his government, he will continue to have my total support."

Mr Parkinson's decision ends a once-promising political career. It began after being elevated from the rank of junior minister to help mastermind the Conservatives' 1983 general election campaign, but his prospects were fatally compromised by the scandal of his affair with Sarah Keays, his former secretary.

In spite of the partial rehabilitation engineered by his political mentor, Mrs Thatcher, which led to his appointment as energy secretary in 1987, Mr Parkinson's career never recovered from the Keays affair. It left him haunted by the prospect of what might have been.

Educated at the Royal Lancaster grammar school, and

Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he obtained a lower second in English and a third in law, Mr Parkinson had long abandoned his youthful affiliation with the Labour party by the time he qualified as a chartered accountant.

But it was his marriage to Ann Jarvis, the daughter of a well-heeled Harpenden builder and an ardent Tory loyalist, which gave him entry to the social circle of the Home Counties, and helped him to gain access to the City accountants West, Wake, Price and Co.

Mr Parkinson entered parliament in 1970 as the member for Enfield West, and by the time he was appointed trade minister in 1979 his construction and building interests, which were developed with the knowledge he acquired as a partner with West, Wake, Price and Co., were worth an estimated £750,000.

It was Mrs Thatcher who plucked him from the junior ministerial ranks to become chairman of the party in 1981, where he set about strengthening the constituency associations that were to play a central role in the 1983 election victory, before being elevated into the Falklands war cabinet the following year.

As a reward for his part in

Mrs Thatcher's second election victory, Mr Parkinson was "pencilled in" as the next foreign secretary. But his looming domestic crisis forced Mrs Thatcher to act cautiously and offer him trade and industry instead.

Within five months his career seemed over. Mr Parkinson's affair with Miss Keays, who was to have his child, dominated the Conservative conference in Blackpool. Mr Parkinson was forced to resign after *The Times* published a statement by Miss Keays, claiming that he had reneged on a promise to marry her.

During the four years Mr Parkinson was to spend in the political wilderness, he remained a close confidant of Mrs Thatcher. Like Lazarus, Mr Parkinson reappeared on the scene after Mrs Thatcher's third election victory, when he was appointed energy secretary with the task of privatising the electricity generating industry.

If Mr Parkinson still cherished notions of becoming foreign secretary, after his fall from grace there was about as much prospect of securing the appellation "Parkinson of the FO" as there was of the Milky Way being extinguished. In 1989, he was shifted to the transport department, a move which observers were unable to conceive as a step up or a step down.

While Mr Parkinson struggled to prevent transport issues becoming an electoral liability, the past came back to haunt him yet again in the form of a scathing select committee report, published earlier this year, over his "lightweight" handling of electricity privatisation, which John Wakeham, his successor, was being credited with sorting out.

Mr Parkinson, however, managed to leave the transport department in better shape than he found it. Spending on roads and railways will increase to £16 billion over the next three years, double the amount spent during the previous three years. The achievement will do little to appease the critics of government transport policy, but it is none the less valid for that.

Less Brittan, Mary Ann Stegert, Diary, page 18 Leading article, page 19 Letters, page 19 Major's health, page 22

Bittersweet parting: Cecil Parkinson outside the transport ministry announcing his resignation

Thatcher's 24-hour bodyguard

By STEWART TENDERL CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER Margaret Thatcher remains in public life after leaving Downing Street she is destined to remain at least one trapping of power. A retinue of Special Branch bodyguards from Scotland Yard will continue to protect her for years to come. An armed officer will be close by 24 hours a day.

No one is likely to forget that the IRA tried and almost succeeded in removing Mrs Thatcher when it bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984. She has remained at the top of the IRA target list.

The new Thatcher home in south London is certain to have been checked for its security and extra devices will have been installed. It will cost up to £40,000 to secure an existing home.

John Major and his family will face the full panoply of police protection covering Downing Street, his normal London home and the family house in his constituency. One of the fleet of armoured VIP limousines, built at a cost of £50,000 or more each, will be used to ferry him between engagements.

Normal family life continues despite father's new job

By LIN JENKINS

NORMA Major's determination that family life be left largely uninterrupted by her husband's rapid rise to power was well in evidence yesterday.

While she was in London to take her place during her husband's visit to Buckingham Palace, the couple's two children remained in Cambridge away from the hectic events at No 10.

Mr Major and his husband do not plan to make 10 Downing Street their family home. Instead, she will base herself at their constituency home, travelling up to Downing Street when necessary. It is thought that Mr Major will use the four-bedroom flat upstairs at No 10 during the week, returning home, as he often did, as chancellor, at weekends.

Yesterday his carried on as normal for the rest of the Major family. Daughter Elizabeth, aged 19, drove herself from the modest house in Great Stukeley to the village veterinary practice where she had worked until recently. Matthew Tong, one of the veterinary surgeons, said:

"Mrs Major, who spent her first day at Number 10 yesterday, told the *Cambridge Evening News* she had been given a map of the house to help her find her way around.

Mr Major, who spent his first day at Number 10 yesterday, told the *Cambridge Evening News* he had been given a map of the house to help her find her way around.

IN LITERATURE at least, the new prime minister's name is well-known. The locus classicus is Major Major *Catch-22*, or, to give him his full name and military rank, Major Major Major Major. Well, it made a suitably surreal entry to a chapter in Joseph Heller's mythopoetic and bitter satire on the second world war. Major Major is the seriously batty squadron commander of American bomber pilots on a Mediterranean island during the Italian campaign, when the real enemy is on our side of the fence.

Major Major's father is the kind of strong-minded Tory supporter John Major has already met as chancellor, and will meet many more of. He was a Calvinist alfa-farmer, a rugged individualist who held that state aid to anyone but farmers was creeping socialism. He was an outspoken champion of economy in government, provided it did not prevent government paying farmers as much as they could get for all the alfa-farmer they produced that no one else wanted.

Then there is Shaw's Major Barbara, a not very constant unilateral dissembler. In

Australian slang, to "Major-Mitchell" is to ride a zig-zag course across country, and get lost. This is an eponymous insult to Major Sir Thomas Mitchell (1792-1855), Surveyor-General to New South Wales, who proved the junction of the Murray and the Darling — which he had set out to disprove. He also went astray from his proper Thatchertite route.

In Cockney rhyming slang, Major Loder means soda, to be taken with whisky, a drink to which he was partial. This comes from Major Eustace Loder (b. 1867), owner of a famous race horse called "Pretty Polly". Major Stevens is betting rhyming slang for evens. And Major McFluffer is the stage cry for help from an actor to attract the attention of an inattentive prompter. Thomas Major and is a character in a play, *Yellow Sands*, by E. Philipps, first produced in 1926, and Lucy Major is in *Once Aboard the Luggers* by A. S. M. Hutchinson, 1908. There are others, but that's enough literary Majors to be going on with.



Route to No 10: John Major leaving Buckingham Palace after receiving the seals of the office of prime minister

Heseltine backers run into local wrath

By BILL FROST

AN APPEAL by Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, for peace and harmony in the aftermath of the leadership contest appeared to have fallen on deaf ears last night. Prominent Heseltine supporters still face the music of deselection by Thatcher loyalists in their constituencies.

Michael Mates, the MP for East Hampshire and Mr Heseltine's campaign chairman, has been censured by 62 members of his local party.

They have served notice that

they intend to start a selection procedure for a new candidate to represent the seat at the next election. The Petersfield branch of the party meets in similar mood on Saturday. It will be voting on a motion of no-confidence in the sitting MP.

Michael Turner, chairman of the East Hampshire Conservative Association, said: "These developments are a measure of the loyalty for Mrs Thatcher. The feeling seems to be how dare Mr Mates support someone who brought her down."

Mr Turner Bridger said he feared that Mr Mates would stand as an independent Conservative if deselected and split the party vote, handing the seat to the Liberal Democrats. "I want Michael to stay. He is a very good MP and I admire him for having the courage of his convictions, unlike the members who claimed to vote for Mrs Thatcher and actually supported someone else."

Similar internecine conflict has gripped the Bedeley Heath constituency of Cyril Townsend, another leading member of the ditch-Thatcher camp. "A lot of people were very unhappy over Cyril's behaviour and they remain unhappy. Some are considering deselection," Alec Mayne, the agent, said. Mr Townsend has not spoken to local party officials since Mr Major's victory.

Emma Nicholson, the MP for Torridge and West Devon, was in political hot water too. Patrick Lamphead, her agent, said: "We have received 400 calls disagreeing with her for supporting Mr Heseltine against Mrs Thatcher. Twenty-seven per cent of those who rang thought she should be deselected."

Mr Lamphead said feelings among Thatcher loyalists in the constituency were still running high. "We can only hope things will cool down."

Comings and goings mark the day

By WILLIAM CASH AND RICHARD FORD

THE dawn of a new era began before sunrise yesterday as a first door light was switched on at 11 Downing Street. John Major, still Chancellor of the Exchequer, pulled back a net curtain and peered out at the media waiting to record the most significant day of his political life.

A few hundred yards away in makeshift television studios, fevered speculation was underway about the shape of the new government. Around Westminster, ministers and backbenchers were waiting nervously by telephones, and small crowds gathered along Whitehall and outside Buckingham Palace to witness the first transfer of power at Downing Street for 11 years.

6.45am: Lights go on in No 11 Downing Street.

7.26: Denis Thatcher leaves No 10.

8.25: Staff from the Central Office of Information erect an address system in anticipation of Margaret Thatcher's arrival.

9.35: Mrs Thatcher arrives at Buckingham Palace to resign.

10.26: 28 minutes later Cecil Parkinson announces he is quitting the cabinet and retiring from politics at the next election.

10.46: Mrs Thatcher leaves Buckingham Palace.

10.48: John and Norma Major leave 11 Downing Street for the palace and his appointment as prime minister.

10.52: The Majors arrive at the palace, leaving at 11.13.

11.15: The new prime minister arrives at 10 Downing Street and makes his first speech. Speaking of Mrs Thatcher as "a towering prime minister" he said the 1990s

would be a decade of "remarkable opportunities".

11.19: Mr Major and his wife enter No 10, and are met with applause from staff.

11.24: David Waddington, home secretary, visits 10 Downing Street.

11.44: Mr Waddington leaves looking smartly dressed and refused to say whether he still had a job in the cabinet.

12.12: Michael Heseltine arrives to discuss his future.

12.41: John Major and Mr Heseltine shake hands on the steps of Downing Street.

12.45: Norman Lamont, Mr Major's campaign manager, hurried inside No 10 refusing to answer questions.

1.03: Mr Lamont bounces down the steps of No 10 smiling, but refused to say whether he was the new chancellor.

1.15: David Mellor, arts minister, arrives at No 10.

1.17: Kenneth Baker, party chairman, visits the new prime minister.

1.37: Denis Thatcher's large blue golf bag is packed into a Mercedes. A minute later Mr Baker departs.

1.39: Central office delivers a package of good luck cards to be signed by Mr Major the candidates in today's Paisley by-elections.

2.06: David Mellor leaves No 10, looking ebullient. He shook his head when asked if he was the new party chairman and said: "We'll see. It's a good week for Chelsea fans."

2.25: Chris Patten, environment secretary, arrives. He leaves 25 minutes later after being appointed party chairman.

3.22: Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary, arrived to see the new prime minister.

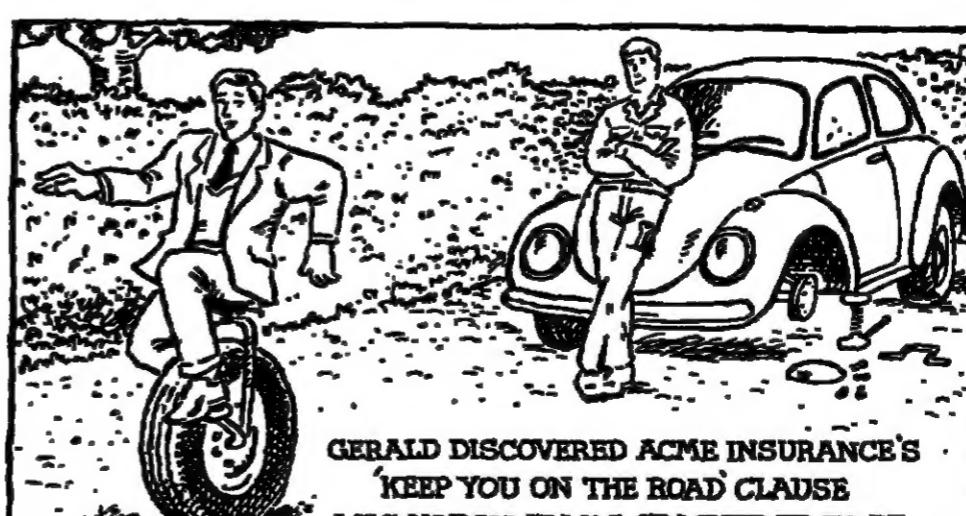
3.45: Mr Rifkind left No 10. Asked what the atmosphere in Downing Street was, he said: "These are very interesting times."

Two hours later it was announced that he had been appointed to replace Cecil Parkinson as transport secretary.

3.46: Elizabeth Major, the prime minister's daughter, arrived at No 10 to see her parents for the first time since Mr Major's appointment as prime minister. She went inside without commenting.

5.35: The cabinet changes Mr Major had worked on all day were announced to journalists at Westminster.

Mr Major's staff said he had no plans to leave his new residence last night where he would be holding meetings with colleagues and officials.



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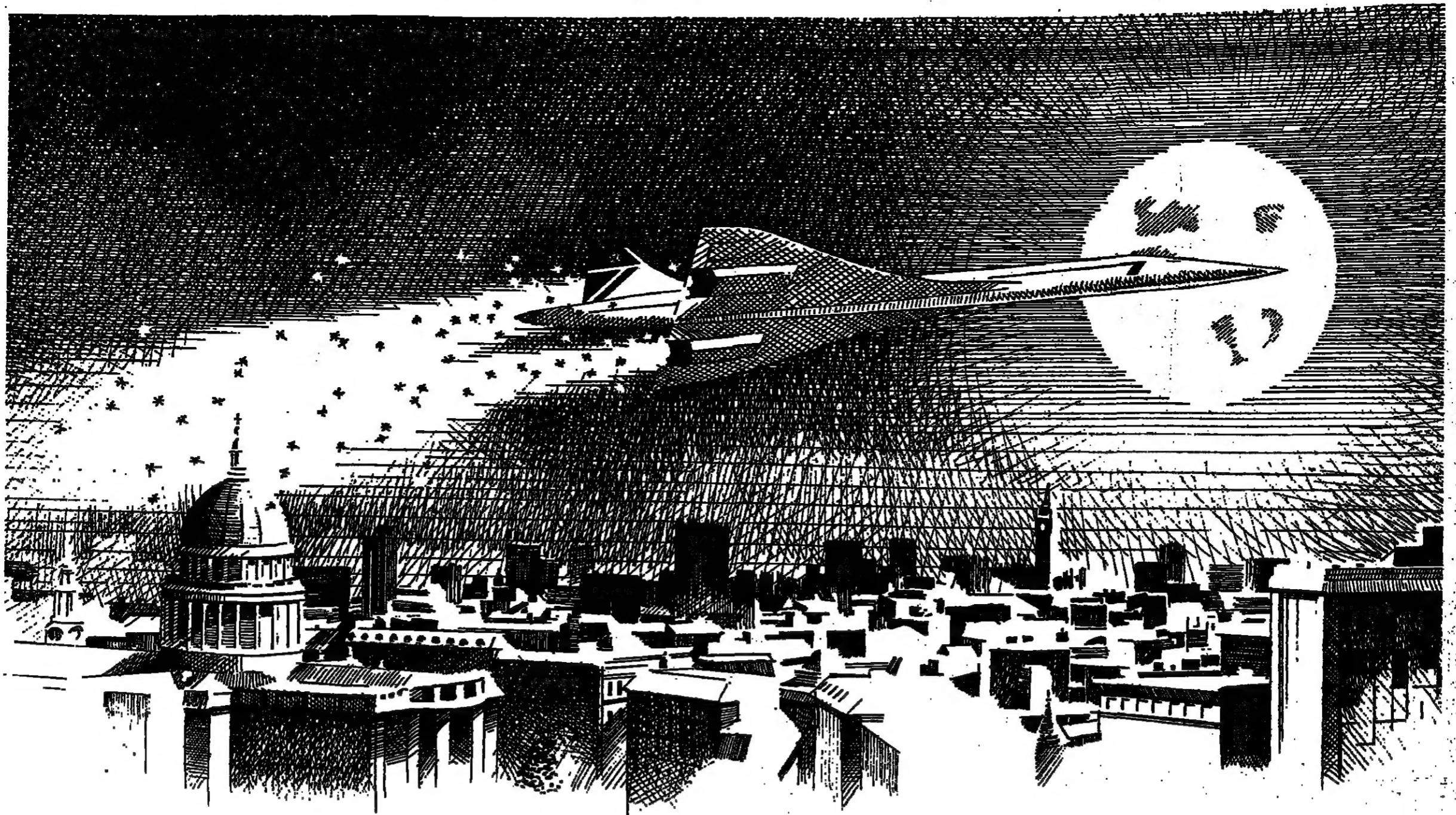
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عاصمة الأفضل

Labour hints at readiness to back single currency

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday gave its clearest signal so far of its readiness to take Britain into a single European currency. In a significant development of its European policy, the ruling national executive committee agreed a statement that emphasised that it would be against the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from full monetary union and the establishment of a single currency.

Labour has made the convergence of the European Community economies an important prerequisite of a single currency. But yesterday's statement is a clear attempt to outflank the Major government on a policy where deep divisions remain within the Conservative party.

Labour sources said last night that the document committed the party in principle to eventual acceptance of a single currency. The publication of the new policy, along with fresh campaigns being launched next week on education and health, mark the start of Labour's new offensive against the government in the wake of Margaret Thatcher's resignation.

The document, drawn up by John Smith, the shadow chancellor, and his economic team, is intended to underline Labour's distinctive policy stance in advance of the December inter-governmental conference in Rome on economic and monetary union.

The document committed Labour to what it called a "steady hardening" of the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM). This means that Labour would support a movement to the use of the narrow bands of the ERM.

The crucial passage however, relates to the single currency. The document states that the process of increased monetary integration does not automatically require the creation of a single currency. "However, EC partners have made clear that, beyond the operation of a narrow band ERM, their desire is to move towards full monetary union and the establishment of a single currency."

The document then states: "Labour believes that it would not be in the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from such developments. In a period of critically important negotiations all options for the UK must remain open. There can be no question of accepting 'division two' status for our country in the community of the future."

The document says that the movement towards monetary union requires a substantial degree of convergence in the economies of the member states at improved levels on

the British people got a chance to have their say about all their powers and internal democracy by a woman whom some of them have likened to an autocratic Ayatollah.

Ron Todd, general secretary of the transport workers' union, said: "The Tory parliamentary party has simply given us Thatcherism without Thatcher. Tory MPs have already established that they did not want Mrs Thatcher, yet she promises to be a back-seat driver under Mr Major's leadership."

He added: "It's time that

an unmitting attack on their

and production and the ability

of all member states to sustain

adequate rates of the growth

and employment without

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rent account deficits.

The document therefore re-

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EC farm payments scheme is open to fraud and abuse

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE system for paying British farmers more than £2 billion a year for unwanted food is open to fraud and abuse, the Commons public accounts committee said yesterday.

The public spending watchdog's investigation into intervention stocks unearthed a record of management failures. The MPs warned the intervention board that inadequate checks could be cloaking undisclosed and detected fraud.

The government, the Euro-

pean court of auditors and the Lords' EC committee have also complained in the past that criminals and terrorists could be defrauding the Community.

The cross-party committee of MPs concluded that tighter controls are needed even though Britain's record for reporting frauds involving EC funds was better than some member states.

The committee reported that the intervention board responsibility for storing food

mountains had completed only seven of the planned twenty-six computer systems. The board's officials admitted that their original plans had been over-optimistic and there had been a failure of management. Computer delays in handling export refunds and levies had cost Britain an extra £5 million in compensation payments.

The MPs added: "We take an extremely serious view of the board's past failure to implement computer systems on time. We consider it essential that the board learn lessons from these past management failures."

The new accounting system had to be introduced on schedule.

The report also questioned the board's handling of debts. The views concerned are of St Paul's from Primrose Hill; from Parliament Hill; from Kenwood; from Alexandra Palace; from the Wolfe statue in Greenwich Park; from King Henry VIII's mound in Richmond Park and from Westminster Pier. The views of Westminster are from Primrose Hill and Parliament Hill.

Commons committee of public accounts fourteenth report: *Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce: Management, Accountability and the Prevention of Fraud* (Stationery Office, £3.85).

Views of St Paul's

CHRIS Patten, one of his last decisions as environment secretary, has acted to save nine classic London views for future generations (John Winder writes).

St Paul's Cathedral figures in seven of them and the palace of Westminster, home of Parliament, in the other two, but the viewpoints are all around London.

Mr Patten issued a consultation letter yesterday to get the opinions of interested

MPs are 'poorly fed and housed'

By ROGER WOOD

A PICTURE of poorly fed MPs spending their working lives in cramped offices with inadequate facilities was painted yesterday in a House of Commons Commission report into the workings of Westminster.

An enquiry headed by Sir Robin Ibbot, Margaret Thatcher's adviser on efficiency in government, included a Mori poll of MPs on the way services are managed. It also found that the House lacks most of the financial management systems now common throughout the private sector and public service.

The new accounting system had to be introduced on schedule.

The main reasons for complaint are overcrowded or inadequate offices coupled with poor facilities. Catering is the second most frequent cause of complaint.

The report's recommendations include the appointment of a director of finance. House of Commons Commission: *House of Commons Services* (Stationery Office, £7.15).



Ridley: "danger of increased nationalism"

Single currency 'Europe threat'

By Robert MORGAN

THE early creation of a single European currency, far from achieving greater unity, would lead to the breaking-up of Europe and increased nationalism, Nicholas Ridley said last night. The rich countries would become poorer, but the poorer nations would not be better able to compete.

The former trade and industry secretary, speaking at a Commons meeting organised by the Campaign for an Independent Britain, said that Britain could not afford not to opt out of a single currency.

He spoke of the dangers that would arise as attempts were made to equate salary levels throughout the EC and drew a parallel with events that led to the depression in the Twenties when adherence to the gold standard meant that the pound was overvalued. It was not until Britain came off the gold standard and revalued the currency that the depression was cured.

In a single-currency Europe, he said, governments would neither be able to cut interest rates nor revalue the currency. In those circumstances the only way to help the poorer regions would be by grants.

As had been seen, grants did not work and they cost money. The rich nations that had to pay them would be disadvantaged, but the poor nations would not have their problems solved.

In due course there would be nationalism and separatist movements. Scotland half wanted to break away from a single currency with Britain. Participants in the Soviet empire's single currency were peeling off.

"The single-currency plan thus has within it the potential for releasing that nationalism, that desire for separation, which the EC was designed to suppress."

Loes Brittan, page 16



World service TV cash rejected

A foreign office minister made clear yesterday that the government will not pay for an international television service put out by the BBC on the lines of its radio World Service.

During Commons questions, Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, urged the government to pay for such a service, said that during his visit to the Gulf and on other travels he was often told that people wanted impartial television.

Mark Letheren-Boyd, foreign office minister, said that ITN had started a commercial world television news service without public funds. That was the way forward.

Farms to rent

John Gummer, agriculture minister, said a written reply that he is to start consultations in the new year with a view to making more farmland available to rent.

Severn bill

The bill authorising construction of the second crossing over the Severn estuary between Avon and Gwent was subsumed in the Commons.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, fisheries and food; prime minister: Development Board for Rural Wales bill, remaining stages. Lords (3): Maintenance Enforcement bill, second reading.

Paisley Tory sets out to dig his own grave

OVERSHADOWED by the Conservative leadership contest, the by-election campaigns in Paisley North and South drew to a close yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

No one was sorry, least of all the ten candidates who have struggled to retain interest among the electorate.

The Labour party is expected to keep both seats, although with its majority cut by the Scottish National Party. The nationalists said that a final surge in support yesterday, as was seen in the Govan by-election two years ago, was certain to bring them victory.

John Major's election as Conservative leader is bound to have come too late to do his party's candidates any good. Ewan Macmillan, fighting in

Paisley North, spent yesterday digging his own grave by defending the community charge. He said that it was fair and should be retained.

The nationalist candidates, asked what were the main issues, said they were to do with the local Labour council's mismanagement of public money and poor housing. Jim Sillars, nationalist MP for Glasgow, Govan, argued that Mr Major would be a bad a leader for Scottish interests as Margaret Thatcher.

John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, was the best known figure on the hustings yesterday. He concentrated on the Tory leadership. He did not believe that Mr Major had a "cat in hell's chance" of uniting the Conservatives.

WRAP UP

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is being审查ed, and
the government is
now looking at a new
method of funding.
The BBC's budget
has been cut by 10%
and it is now looking
at ways to further
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دكوان للجيوب

Vicar found guilty of adultery told to quit his parish

By PAUL WILKINSON

A VICAR was ordered out of his parish in the West Sussex village of Henfield yesterday after he was found guilty of adultery with his curate's wife and a married parishioner.

The Bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev Eric Kemp, must now decide whether the Rev Tom Tyler, aged 51, should be unfrocked.

It took a panel of four assessors, two clergy and two laity from the Chichester diocese, an hour to find Mr Tyler guilty of five allegations of adultery at the end of a seven-day consistory court hearing in Chichester.

The hearing had been told that Mr Tyler had conducted a ten-year affair with his curate's wife, Susan Whittemore, aged 52. After that ended in 1988, he had a short liaison with Barbara Edwards, aged 31, the wife of a friend, who had turned to the church for help after the cot death of her son.

Three of the charges alleged adultery with Mrs Whittemore at the vicarage, at her home and in her car. The two others alleged adultery with Mrs Edwards at her home in Henfield. They forbade the basis of an indictment of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders.

Sentencing was pronounced by the chancellor of the diocese, Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, who had presided over the hearing. He told Mr

Tyler: "I do not want to add to your humiliation and disgrace with many more words. The shame of the ecclesiastical offences on which the assessors have found you guilty speaks for itself."

"I have listened to what has been said on your behalf, but at the same time you committed adultery with a woman in your care of souls. It is a betrayal of your orders and of those people in your parish who trusted you and who had been placed in your care by the bishop. You and Mrs Whittemore were on an equal footing, but Mrs Edwards was a woman burdened by sorrow. You took advantage of her in a way wholly unworthy of your calling."

"There is only one censure I can pronounce, that you be removed from your prebend at Henfield and be disqualified from any other living unless the Archbishop of Canterbury or your bishop decide otherwise."

All the evidence was heard in camera after the judge ruled that the embarrassment of witnesses speaking in public might prejudice justice. Only counsel's opening and closing speeches and the court's decision were heard in open court.

Mr Tyler, who had vigorously denied the charges, alleging that they arose from a conspiracy organised by Mrs Whittemore after a parish dis-



A man aged 24 is led by police to an appearance before a magistrate in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, yesterday charged with the murder of two consultant plastic surgeons at the Pinderfields hospital in the town. Laith

Haashim Alani, unemployed, of Silcoates Park, Wakefield, made a six-minute appearance and was remanded in custody until Tuesday, accused of the murders of Michael Masser and Kenneth Paine at the hospital last

Monday. Reporting restrictions were not lifted. Graham Manchester, for the defence, said that there was no application for bail. David Clark, the magistrate, agreed that Alani should next be produced in court on December 18.

More top women managers needed

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EMPLOYERS must change their practices to encourage more women into senior management jobs, a government report said yesterday.

Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister with responsibility for women's issues, said progress had been slow for women trying to reach senior positions. Launching the report, she said that businesses were "beginning to recognise it is possible to gain a competitive edge in the labour market through making more effective use of the female talent available".

The report by the National Economic Development Office and the Royal Institute of Public Administration says that though women make up 45 per cent of the UK labour force, only 27 per cent of managers are female. Only 4 per cent of senior and middle management are women, while among top management the proportion is 1 per cent.

Based on research by the Institute of Manpower Studies, the report says that the number of managers is forecast to rise by 700,000 in the 1990s, and to meet that demand, management must change to encourage women.

British Gas



The Rev Tom Tyler leaving the consistory court with his wife after hearing the verdict yesterday.

Appeal for Irish divorce law

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING divorce lawyer has appealed to Mary Robinson, the first woman president of Ireland, to speed up the introduction of divorce in Ireland after an important ruling on maintenance orders in the High Court last week.

The case, in which Mrs Robinson was involved as a barrister, led to a ruling by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, that a maintenance order imposed by a court in the Irish Republic was unenforceable in England. This was because the woman referred to as a "spouse", Christine Macaulay, had since been divorced by her husband in England and was no longer a wife. There is no provision for divorce in Ireland.

Mrs Macaulay's lawyer, Margaret Bennett, vice-president of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, who was counsel for Miss Macaulay in the case. She says that unless divorce laws are introduced in Ireland, thousands of Irish women whose husbands leave them to live in other jurisdictions will be penalised.

Sisters quit home in football club accord

By RONALD FAUX

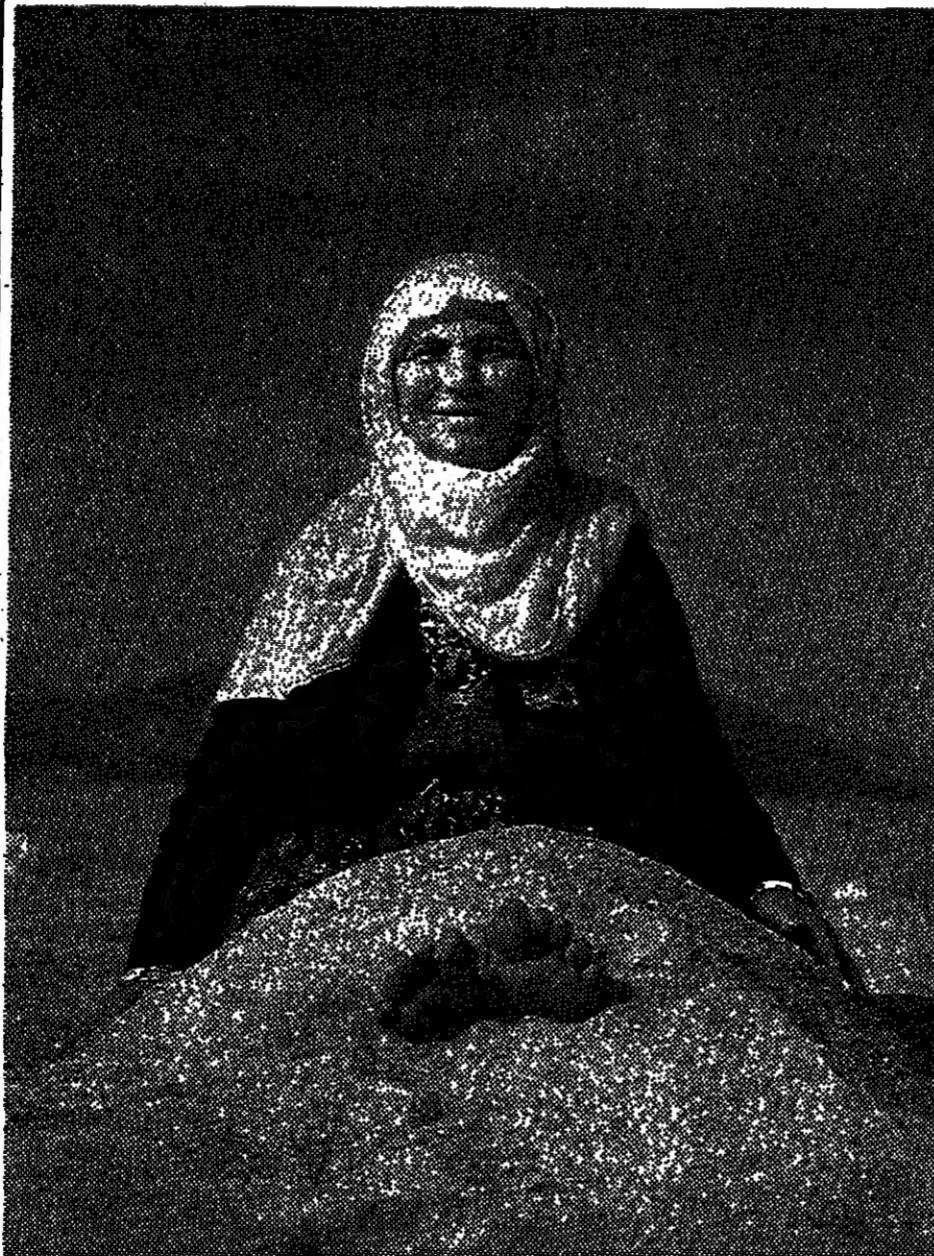
TWO sisters agreed yesterday to leave their home of 50 years next to Anfield football ground in Liverpool, ending their 12-year battle against eviction.



Miss Norah Mason and her sister Muriel are the sole remaining tenants in Kemlyn Road, a street of terraced houses bought by Liverpool Football Club 12 years ago to make way for a multi-million pound development of the ground.

Two hours of talks in private before a hearing at Liverpool county court settled the dispute. David Geey, counsel for Liverpool FC, told Judge Dennis Clark that by consent there would be a judgment for the club for possession of the property on or before February 28.

Over the years the sisters had turned down offers of alternative accommodation by the club but had refused to move from what remained of the road, which gave its name to a stand at the ground. Mr Geey said the sisters had been concerned throughout to remain in the house.



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TIM03

Blind ignorance of ministers blamed for NCC break-up

By MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government's action in dismembering the Nature Conservancy Council, its wildlife advisory body, has set back the cause of nature conservation in Britain by up to five years, Sir William Wilkinson, the retiring chairman, said yesterday.

Giving valedictory voice to the anger and bitterness the break-up has aroused among conservationists, Sir William quoted Tennyson to accuse the government of "blind and naked ignorance". Burke to accuse it of presumptuous judgment, and St Augustine to accuse it of hypocrisy. He said its motto ought to be: "Make me green, Lord, and unpolluting but not yet!"

Presenting the final annual report of the conservancy council, which will be split into smaller national countryside agencies for England, Scotland and Wales in April, Sir William told several hundred leading conservationists: "Ministers and their departments simply do not know how nature conservation is carried out."

His attack won him a standing ovation from most of his audience. His speech, however, aroused the undisguised anger of senior civil servants and of some members of the conservancy council who supported the government's move.

Sir Hector Monro, MP, said Sir William had gone far too far, and David Trippier, the countryside minister, said later: "I am saddened that this occasion should have proved an opportunity to prolong significant misunderstandings about the future of nature conservation in Britain. That future is in safe hands."

Sir William said that the new bodies would be too unstable and transitory to last, and that the central committee overseeing them would be too weak to carry out its job of promoting nature conservation for the United Kingdom as a whole.

He said that they would be undermined unless their new budgets which have not yet been announced, came to £65 million. The new bodies would not have the same influence and authority as the conservancy council, "since it was the government's intention, or at least that of some members of it, to ensure that they should not," he said.

The suggestion that the conservancy council should be



Wilkinson: tough words for government

Jews' leader accuses DPP of inaction

By MICHAEL HORNELL

THE lay leader of Britain's 330,000 Jewish community accused the Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday of "hiding behind the cloak of anonymity" after his refusal to agree to a meeting to discuss a wave of virulent anti-Semitic literature.

Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said that Allan Green, QC, had been sent information on up to 20 cases suggesting the origins of pamphlets and leaflets which are inciting a hate campaign.

He criticised the DPP for failing to launch prosecutions on the evidence that has been assembled. Dr Kopelowitz, a JP, said: "I am disappointed. I should have thought he could have discussed this matter. I have made it clear I did not want to talk about particular cases. I wanted to discuss procedures and his thinking. The Jewish community is very concerned about hate literature which incites racial hatred." Mr Green has written

Bernard Levin, page 18

to Dr Kopelowitz, who is also disturbed by the growing number of assaults on Jews and Jewish property, that a meeting could compromise his independence. Mr Green is understood to feel it would be improper to engage in talks because they could pave the way to similar requests from a variety of pressure groups. It is understood that the DPP is advising an approach instead to the Attorney-general, who is the political master of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The rebuff has coincided with the desecration of about 50 tombs in a Jewish cemetery owned by the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations in Enfield, north London.

The Times has disclosed that 27 serious reported incidents of assault on Jews and Jewish property were investigated by police in Greater London alone in the first six months of this year.

Commonhold: A Consultation Paper (Stationery Office; £18.25)

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Owners of leasehold flats may win new rights

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to the law on leasehold flats, under which owners would have greater rights to control and manage their properties communally, are proposed by the Lord Chancellor's department today.

The paper suggests legislation for a system of commonhold, similar to the "condominium" or "strata title" schemes in other parts of the world. Such a system, in which the owners share services and facilities and have a system of communal management, would be aimed at giving flat owners a democratic system for jointly running their properties. It would also save time and cut conveyancing costs.

The proposals come at a time of complaints about poor management and excessive service charges, coupled with what the report describes as "ever increasing concern" with the problems that confront leaseholders in selling leases with only a few years left to run. A commonhold is a freehold development of two or more "units" that share services and facilities and are run by a communal management system. The most obvious example is that of a block of flats which, under present law, would be owned on a long-leasehold basis.

The report says, however, that there would be nothing in the commonhold legislation to stop commonholds being set up for non-residential purposes. It suggests the system might equally be adopted for commercial or mixed-use developments. The system could be used for housing or industrial estates, or shopping precincts with flats or offices above. Another use would be agricultural buildings and surrounding farmland.

The report also points out that the commonhold system could be used for new developments, existing buildings being subdivided or organised into an estate, or for blocks already occupied on a long-leasehold basis.

The Lord Chancellor is inviting comments on the proposed draft legislation.



Michael Page, who was appointed as receiver for Cadogan Court, Chelsea

Property disputes simmer behind elegant facades

EDWINA Coven, who has owned a flat in Chelsea for 33 years, saw her elegant mansion block grow shabby and neglected. The paint was left to peel in the common parts, repairs were left undone and neglect started to threaten the structure.

Eventually she and other residents of Cadogan Court were forced to go to court to protect their homes. Their problem was that English law places flat owners in an anomalous position: When blocks of flats were first built, in towns and cities the feudal tradition from the countryside of leasehold and freehold was adopted. The result is that flat owners do not own the structure or the land it stands on.

Such a system has come under increasing attack. According to James Banks, co-ordinator of the Commonhold Flats Campaign, it leaves the flat owner with "nothing more than the loan of a cube of air".

Commonhold is the notion of ownership of the freehold of the flat and ownership in common by the flat owners of the freehold of the structure and

campaign which has attracted more than 1,000 supporters, cites numerous examples of unhelpful freeholders demanding large sums for lease extensions, charging vast amounts for work not carried out, refusing to do repairs and charging for insurance that were never bought.

"The matter is now being quite widely discussed, but there is still a feeling in some quarters that commonhold can be introduced by some deal between willing leaseholders and willing freeholders," he said.

The Building Societies Association, which spent years examining systems in other countries, also believes that commonhold provides the best solution.

Mr Page believes the main problem lies with the need to change property management. He believes people who buy flats do not want to be in charge of their own destiny. "Most flat owners are incredibly apathetic so I am not sure commonhold is the right approach. But at least the Lord Chancellor's document should get the problem discussed."

Patients 'excluded from talks on health'

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE new streamlined health authorities are becoming increasingly secretive following the government's shake-up of the health service, patients' watchdogs say today.

The Association of Community Health Councils claims in a report that consumer representation is being deliberately ignored by many authorities that are now holding their meetings in private.

In a survey, the association found that only a third of districts planned to meet in public on a monthly basis and the one-sixth were to meet less frequently than once every two months. The new authorities, which have been stripped of local government representatives, had their first meetings in September and October.

Only 35 per cent of community health councils were allowed to stay for the private meetings of the new districts.

Toby Harris, the association director, said: "There are fears that public meetings of the new health authorities will be mere rubber-stamping exercises with decisions being made beforehand."

■ The number of women with the AIDS virus is rising alarmingly, with women twice as likely to be infected through heterosexual sex as men, Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said yesterday. By the end of October, 162 cases of AIDS in women were reported, three times the cumulative figure last year, she said.

Smoking ban

Smoking is to be banned on London's buses from February 14, London Transport announced. Surveys have shown that 73 per cent of London adults want a ban. Only three in 10 using the capital's 5,000 buses are smokers and of them fewer than three in five actually smoke on board. Clive Hodson, London buses managing director, said: "Buses will be cleaner, healthier and safer."

Call to farmers

David Curry, the junior agriculture minister, urged farmers yesterday to find new ways of making money and to revive the cottage industries of their forefathers in order to offset the decline in income from conventional agriculture. He told a conference on arable farming in Peterborough: "Consumers want quality products and variety. Farmers must get in on the act."

Teams saved

Food research teams due to be disbanded under government rationalisation have been saved by the expansion of Bristol university's veterinary school. They are being transferred to the university, which has bought the building on the site of its veterinary school, where the government food research institute was based. The institute was to close.

Museum's credit card gift plea

By SIMON TAFT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Museum's scheme to solicit donations by credit card got off to a faltering start yesterday when it was launched by Jean Rankine, the deputy director.

Anxious to encourage visitors to give more than the change in their pockets, Britain's oldest public museum has become the world's first to install a credit card machine. Miss Rankine said: "We hope this will intrigue people into giving more."

She then duly slotted in her Access card and tapped in her gift. "It doesn't seem to be working... I didn't press those buttons... but it's only taken a quarter of what I offered," she complained as representatives of the sponsors, Midland Bank and 3C Communications, hurried to her aid.

Christopher Poulton, of 3C, said: "These machines are waterproof, bullet-proof, any kind of proof you like." Miss Rankine muttered: "Not deputy director proof though. Yesterday when we tried it, it multiplied the donation by a fantastic amount."

The British Museum gets about £150,000 a year through casual gifts and hopes to treble the figure. A year ago Sir David Wilson, the director, warned the government that the museum faced a £1 million deficit and needed £2.5 million to stave off a financial crisis. It got more than £4 million extra for this year, and another £3.3 million came from the recent arts budget.

The British Museum has steadfastly opposed the notion of admission charges, and Sir David has threatened to resign if he is forced to introduce them.

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Patient excluded from talk on health

Boundary review proposes abolition of Humberside

By PETER DAVENPORT

UNWANTED and still unloved by many of its inhabitants 16 years after its creation, the county of Humberside may be on the way out.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England yesterday recommended that the southern half of the county be returned to Lincolnshire and that the remaining area be renamed East Yorkshire in line with popular demand. The proposals, which would virtually return the region to its position before local government reorganisation in 1974, reverse the commission's view published in an interim report seven months ago that Humberside should remain.

The recommendations prompted widely differing reactions yesterday. Lincolnshire County Council immediately announced a champagne reception, groups campaigning for the restoration of East Yorkshire expressed delight; and Humberside county council said that it was "absolutely astounded". The council forecast thousands of job losses among its workforce of 30,000 if Michael Heseltine,

It is now proposed that the

four districts south of the Humber — Cleethorpes, Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Great Grimsby — return to Lincolnshire. Those on the north bank — Boothferry, Holderness, Kingston upon Hull, Bridlington and Beverley — would remain as Humberside. The report, however, advises: "The county council itself can change the name of the county to East Yorkshire if that is the wish of the people."

Comments on the proposals must be submitted by the end of January, when the final report will go to the minister.

Trevor Pearson, chairman of the East Yorkshire Action Group, which has pressed for the abolition of Humberside, yesterday said: "This is the happiest day of my life."

The proposals were greeted with dismay at the Humberside county council headquarters, however. Officials said commission members had earlier accepted that the county should remain because it was created to promote economic development. "Now they have caved in to emotional arguments and public opinion," a spokesman said.

Map showing the proposed changes to the county boundaries.

Teacher-training controversy

Denim-clad left under attack

Who will teach the teachers and how should they acquire classroom skills? David Tytler reports

ANNIS Garfield has a classics degree from Cambridge, has been an O and A-level examiner for 13 years, taught in private schools and would appear to be an ideal candidate to return to teaching. Mrs Garfield will tell a conference teacher training today that she has been rejected by several colleges and universities and will blame ill-informed, run-by-'denim-clad' lecturers blinded by their own prejudices. "My first mistake," she said, "was to brush my hair and wear a sober dress. The correct thing would have been fashionably weird hair and denim."

The conference has been called by the Centre for Policy Studies, the right-wing think tank, which earlier this year demanded that all graduate teachers should be trained on the job and that university education departments closed.

Sheila Lawlor, the deputy director, said graduates should go straight into schools as trainee teachers for a year in either primary or secondary schools while the bachelor of education degree should be scrapped.

Dr Lawlor and her supporters claim that teacher-training courses are too concerned with sociology, the philosophy of teaching and equal rights. They also fail to turn out teachers with a good grasp of their subject and with adequate classroom skills.

The teacher trainers dispute Dr Lawlor's claim that there would be an immediate increase in teachers as apprentice teachers would actually be teaching. "It deters good graduate

specialists from entering the profession and it undermines the subject specialism of those who do."

Sir William Taylor, chairman of the government-appointed Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (CATE) and vice-chancellor of Hull university, said that Dr Lawlor was out of date; that the training institutions "are legally bound to cover subjects such as equal opportunities, and that there is nothing to suggest that if education departments were closed there would be a flood of applicants wanting to enter the classroom."

Sir William, who will join the debate with Dr Lawlor and Mrs Garfield, said that he believed the BEd courses, now designed principally for primary teachers, attracted young people, particularly women, into higher education who would otherwise be lost to it; certainly they would be lost to education.

Mrs Garfield's views are not popular with Alan McClelland, the soberly dressed professor of education at Hull. "I have no objection to informed criticism based on specific evidence but it is often just one person giving a view which is not typical."

Professor McClelland accepted that teachers had lost their way in the Sixties and Seventies but he said that was now being put right with the introduction of the national curriculum.

He also thought more could be done to improve the classroom skills of teachers by giving the new teacher more support with in-service training, which he believes is often inadequate.

Firemen's cash plea

West Yorkshire fire chiefs are threatening to close five fire stations and lose nearly 500 jobs unless they receive more cash. A delegation from the county's fire and civil defence authority will tell Robert Key, the junior environment minister, today that the government's spending assessment of £44 million is nearly £9 million less than the amount needed for a stand-still budget. A spokesman said that even a 12% per cent rise in spending would be insufficient and mean the loss of 10 jobs and one station.

Libel damages

Linda Melvern, a journalist, has accepted undisclosed libel damages over an article in GQ magazine that she was dismissed by The Sunday Times during a purge of "overly political" elements and managers.

Trying again

Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, and Per Strandstrand, the Swedish balloonist, will again try to cross the Pacific in a hot air balloon next month.

Home recovery

Lord Home is the Mervin, the former Tory prime minister, was said to be in a satisfactory condition in hospital in Winchester, Hampshire, yesterday, after suffering a stroke.

No privacy

The doors of a £10,000 computer-controlled public lavatory, opened in Worcester last week, have jammed open.



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Standard of hotels 'too low'

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH hotel management is of a shamefully low standard, the hotel and restaurant critic Egon Ronay says in the 33rd edition of his *Hotels and Restaurants Guide* published today.

Hotels are as good as their managers but "too many of them do not know how to direct or, above all, how to motivate staff", Mr Ronay says. He asks how many sleep in their hotel's bedrooms to uncover hidden faults, and suggests that few have enough knowledge of food.

Andrew Eitel, editor of the 1991 guide, says that the number of letters received containing copies of complaints to major hotels has increased sharply. "Not a single group has escaped the criticism of our readers, whose almost universal conclusion is that they have had rotten value for their money."

Ms Shatil (left) photographed the scene while observing nine cubs near her home in the United States. The photograph (above) earned her the title of British Gas Wildlife Photographer of the Year and a trophy, which was presented to her at the Natural History Museum yesterday by the broadcaster Sir David Attenborough. An exhibition of winning pictures is at the museum until January 31.



Shamir may offer Gaza deal to ease Palestinian issue

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

WITH pressure mounting on Israel to defuse the Palestinian issue because of the Gulf confrontation, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, is considering new Middle East peace proposals, including plans for a possible "phased" or "gradual" disengagement from the occupied Gaza Strip, according to government sources.

Israeli newspapers said that, if the plan was approved by senior figures in the Likud party, Mr Shamir would discuss it with President Bush when he visits Washington in 10 days' time — the first meeting between Mr Bush and the Israeli leader for nearly a year.

Mr Shamir could also review Middle East peace prospects with the new British government in London en route to the United States on December 6, giving John Major his first taste of the intricacies of Middle East politics.

Diplomats said America is keen for Israel not only to keep a low profile as war looms in the Gulf in January, but also to rob President Saddam Hussein of his trump

card by taking steps towards a resolution of the Palestinian issue.

President Saddam has repeatedly presented himself as the champion of the Palestinian cause. Diplomats suspect that, if he is in danger of defeat or forced to withdraw from Kuwait, he would either attack Israel in revenge or at the very least insist that a settlement must include an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Israel is disturbed by the priority the United States is giving to its new Arab allies against Iraq, especially Syria, which many Israelis regard as responsible for recently concerted Arab attacks on Israeli's "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Haaretz said yesterday that one American fear was that Israel, not content with waiting along the border to be attacked, would launch a ground and air push northwards into Lebanon, giving President Saddam a propaganda boost. But the newspaper *Al Hanashim* said the growing number of armed attacks on Israel's borders,

from Egypt and Jordan to Lebanon, were a further source of pressure on Israel to take the steam out of the Palestinian issue.

Day after day Israeli papers have carried harrowing pictures of relatives at gravesides, mourning dead Israeli servicemen. Israeli army officers say the infiltration attempts, which have cost 12 Israeli lives in two weeks, amount to a new "war of attrition", with extremist organisations such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, operating from Jordan and Lebanon to open up "a second front of the intifada".

The basis of Israeli policy remains the peace plan presented by Mr Shamir to Mr Bush in April 1989 and approved by the "national unity" coalition the following month. This provides for the election of Palestinian representatives to negotiate "transitional self-rule".

But the coalition, and the Shamir plan, collapsed earlier this year over the status of Jerusalem and the PLO's possible involvement in talks.



Desert rain: An Egyptian soldier stands guard under his country's flag during the first downpour of the two-month rainy season in the northern Saudi Arabian desert. Arab commanders were happy with the damp weather. Rain is unlikely where US and British troops are deployed

keen for Israel not only to keep a low profile as war looms in the Gulf in January, but also to rob President Saddam Hussein of his trump

card by taking steps towards a resolution of the Palestinian issue.

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DALMENY

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EDDINGTON

123 Eddington

GREENFORD

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GLASSHOUSE

102 Glasshouse Road

GOLEGE GREEN

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HARROWAY

101 Arches Rd

HARVEST

1A-2 Harvest Road

HATFIELD

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HORNSEY

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Gorbachev cancels Nobel trip to tackle problems at home

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's cancellation of his trip to Oslo to pick up the Nobel peace prize will convey to Western capitals more effectively than anything else the gravity of the economic and political situation in the Soviet Union.

The announcement was made yesterday shortly before a senior German official disclosed plans to transport large quantities of food to the Soviet Union.

Increasingly, Mr Gorbachev has given precedence in his domestic timetable to meetings that promise the Soviet Union economic assistance. Yesterday he received Helmut Kohl's chief adviser, Horst Teitschik, who is heading a German delegation to discuss the provision of food.

Many Germans praise Mr Gorbachev for contributing to the unification of Germany and have encouraged both government-sponsored and private Western efforts to help an impoverished Soviet Union out of its present difficulties.

Horst Teitschik told a press conference that his delegation been given an undertaking by the Soviet Union that customs and visa formalities for German aid consignments would be minimised. Everything possible would be done, he said, to accomplish deliveries "unbureaucratically and fast".

He told an audience of sceptical journalists that a group of ten German ministries and 15 Soviet ministries would co-ordinate the

aid effort, and he hoped thereby to ensure top-level cooperation on the Soviet side.

Deciding to give details of his conversation with Mr Gorbachev, saying that it was "confidential", Herr Teitschik said Mr Gorbachev had described the next six months as critical and promised that German aid deliveries would start at once. He quoted figures of between \$15 billion (£7 billion) and \$20 billion for the amount of aid the Soviet Union though it would need.

Members of Herr Teitschik's delegation said the Soviet side had accepted that German aid officials should accompany consignments through the Soviet Union to their destination and be permitted to observe distribution. Concern has been expressed in the Soviet Union and abroad that food will rapidly find its way on to the black market or simply be left undelivered because of the inefficient and corrupt Soviet distribution network.

An insight into precisely these problems was given yesterday by Yuri Luzhkov, chairman of the Moscow city council's executive committee, who disclosed that the Soviet capital was currently receiving only 60 per cent of its usual milk supplies and was facing an acute shortage of baby food and semolina. He said that Moscow's meat stocks were sufficient for only three to five days if deliveries were stopped.

Mr Luzhkov blamed rural

Russia was losing in the provision of scarce goods because producers were preferring to sign contracts with republics where prices had already been fixed.

At the same time, he insisted that there was no need to panic. Moscow, he said, had sufficient quantities of most basic foodstuffs to see it through the winter; the empty shop shelves were largely a result of panic buying and black marketing.

Quota queue: a Ukrainian woman hands over ration tickets for her quota of eggs in Odessa as others wait in line. Ukrainians receive 70 per cent of their salary in ration form, a measure Moscow is to adopt next month

Within hours of the Soviet army announcing new measures to defend its position, a parliamentary enquiry into the sudden deployment near Moscow of thousands of crack paratroops in the autumn has cast doubt on the defence ministry's explanation.

The troops' dispatch set off a wave of rumours about a military coup in September and prompted accusations that the military had been withholding information. The enquiry's findings were reported by the Communist youth daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which went on sarcastically to attack official prevarication over the troop movements and allege that they could have ended in tragedy. Publication of the

investigators' main conclusions came one day after an unprecedentedly grave warning from Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister, that the army would not tolerate further threats to its prestige or its control of military installations and nuclear weapons.

Both the parliamentary investigators and the newspaper acknowledged that the temporary transfer of elite units to the Moscow region during the run-up to a pro-democracy demonstration on September 16 had not amounted to preparation for a military coup. But the parliamentary committee questioned the plausibility of the defence ministry's account, which said the troops were either rehearsing for the November 7 Red Square parade or helping with the potato harvest.

The ministry's version was not supported by checks of rehearsal arrangements and of the numbers involved in the sporadic picking, the enquiry found.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, which has adopted an astonishingly radical line for an official organ, asked why the troops had a full supply of ammunition when no exercises involving live fire were envisaged. It said the investigators had come across documents with forged dates and evidence that the manoeuvres had been brought forward at the last minute.

Violent incidents involving soldiers and demonstrators in Lithuania had shown that conscripts' nerves were stretched to the limit, the paper argued. The dispatch to Moscow of thousands of inexperienced youths with heavy ammunition, at a time of seething political tension, could have had tragic results.

Mikhail Yuzov, in an unscheduled address in the middle of state television news on Tuesday night, spoke out against armed attacks on military installations and rumours that the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal might be divided up among the 15 republics. He insisted on the army's right to deploy its forces wherever they were needed in the Soviet Union and said the destruction of monuments to distinguished officers would be banned.

The ban had pitted the right of free speech against Noriega's constitutional right to a fair trial. (AP)

Singer arrested

Los Angeles - The pop singer, Rob Pilatus, of the dismally duo, Milli Vanilli, was arrested for investigation of a sexual battery allegation. Police said Mr Pilatus, aged 26, was arrested after an allegation by a woman aged 25. Authorities declined to provide any other details. Mr Pilatus was freed on \$10,000 bail. (AP)

Strikers
out to save
Nato jobs

Defensive Soviet army under fire

FROM BRUCE CLARKE IN MOSCOW

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Walesa's backers attach communist label to Tyminski

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE campaign team of Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, yesterday tried to brand his rival for the presidency as a Trojan horse for discontents communists. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, head of the Centre Alliance, said the candidate Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Canadian businessman, was becoming a focus for displaced communists who wanted to derail Solidarity.

"The faces around Tyminski are the faces of the old system," Mr Kaczynski told reporters. "The genuine threat to democracy in Poland comes from the remnants of communism, and it is in precisely these waters that Tyminski is fishing."

Wilder claims could be heard in Mr Walesa's campaign headquarters. Some of the Solidarity leader's most important campaign managers are saying Mr Tyminski has Soviet backing.

Mr Tyminski has dismissed such charges as "lies, lies, lies". Mr Kaczynski supported his claims of Mr Tyminski's crypto-communism by pointing to his economic programme which opposes privatisation and supports a largely state-owned economy. "His idea of reform is to keep the state-owned enterprises and simply pay the workers more. Poles do not know what Mr Tyminski stands for and the source of his support

is rather obscure. He gained 23 per cent of the vote, pushing Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, out of the race and forcing his resignation.

His praise on Tuesday for President Jaruzelski and implicit approval of the 1981 decision to declare martial law has strengthened the hand of the Walesa loyalists.

Meanwhile, there is considerable bargaining behind the scenes as both candidates try to soak up the votes of the losing contenders. Mr Walesa has telephoned Mr Mazowiecki and a tactical alliance has been formed to block Mr Tyminski and ensure that the Solidarity candidate wins on December 9.

Mr Walesa says the present government line-up, with a few personnel and policy adjustments, could stay in place under his presidency until the general elections in spring. Although Mr Mazowiecki dislikes the patronising tone, and although he is determined to resign, he is ready to accept this temporary pact.

The prime minister will formally submit his resignation to parliament today and the chamber is expected to reject the proposal, keeping him in place until a detailed understanding is reached between him and Mr Walesa. Mr Mazowiecki, who has called a meeting of his election

committees from throughout the country on Sunday, wants to build up a party that will fight in the spring elections for his basic ideas.

A cabinet session yesterday studied the 1991 budget proposals drawn up by Dr Leszek Balcerowicz, the finance minister, and it became clear that the present government will resist any attempts to make financial policy more interventionist. Mr Walesa said yesterday: "The market economy policy started by Balcerowicz will really be continued." But there would have to be "corrections", especially in tackling unemployment. It is these "corrections" that worry the Mazowiecki team.

Plainly, the split in Solidarity can be papered over but cannot be healed. "We draw on fundamentally different constituencies," Mr Kaczynski admitted yesterday. The Mazowiecki team, he said, should admit it was in the wrong.

Tactically, the two camps could work together to defeat Mr Tyminski; philosophically, they were as far apart as ever.



Flower power: demonstrating students pacify Bulgarian riot police with smiles and flowers after scuffles during yesterday's protest in Sofia

Lukanov will step aside for 'caretaker' regime

From REUTER
IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S embattled prime minister, Andrei Lukanov, called for a caretaker government yesterday as the official news agency BTA said that he was about to resign.

Mr Lukanov told reporters that talks were under way between his Socialist Party and other political

forces for a caretaker administration to take over. "I personally support the foundation of a caretaker government," he said.

"The political forces today started talks to reach this clever compromise ... There are not yet talks about the composition of the government, but I hope it will happen very soon because the present situation should not

continue." The meeting took place amid growing support for a general strike launched on Monday by the independent trade union Podkrepa to force Mr Lukanov out. About 25,000 demonstrators gathered in central Sofia, in spite of huge police security.

A policeman was injured and two students arrested in scuffles with demonstrators at a bridge in the capital, but generally the demonstrations were peaceful.

BTA said an agreement was "almost ready" to create a cabinet under a prime minister who was neither a Socialist nor a member of the main opposition party. Mr Lukanov, aged 52, said on Tuesday that he intended to push through tough policies to pull Bulgaria out of economic crisis.



Kohl heads for triumph under banner of unity

From IAN MURRAY IN FRANKFURT

LONG before he arrived in the exhibition centre here, it was easy to see why Helmut Kohl can expect to remain chancellor after Sunday's election.

The thousands thronging to support him do not regard him as a politician touring for votes, but as the historic figure who turned the impossible dream of German unity into reality. To vote against him would be to vote against the fatherland they all love.

Herr Kohl may represent the centre-right Christian Democratic Union, but the emphasis at present is on the word "union". Moreover, when unity has created a new-found pride in a German identity, the chancellor has succeeded in embodying a basic "German-ness" which is proving a vote-winner.

With his stolid ways and deliberately slow-witted image, he strikes a chord which his Social Democrat challenger, Oskar Lafontaine, for all his quicksilver tongue,

cannot match. Herr Kohl's huge figure exudes confident respectability alongside his diminutive, floral-tied challenger. Where the socialist is known for his refined palate, the chancellor makes no secret of his liking for *sauermauer*, the Rhineland peasant's favourite dish.

Herr Lafontaine, who was nearly killed by a deranged attacker six months ago, slips onto the platform almost unnoticed, earning his rapturous applause later through his oratory.

Herr Kohl, however, makes royal progress into the hall. The audience knows he is coming by the inevitable brass band, which strikes up a triumphant march. He surges ahead, beaming happily in the glare of the television spotlights. The crowd leans towards him, clapping and stamping their feet. A few have their hand squeezed in his huge grasp as he presses onwards to the platform.

He will have given the speech that follows 28 times by Sunday and he knows it without a text, although he adapts parts of it to local concerns. He tries to begin with a fresh joke as a happy prelude to the exhortation to hard work and sacrifice.

Understandably, the chancellor makes much of the fact that Sunday's vote will be the first time since 1932 that all Germans can vote freely for their government. But he makes no mention of the Gulf or of his promise to amend the constitution to allow German troops to serve under the UN.

Herr Kohl then gets down to the task of destroying the opposition. Loyalty to the Nato Herr Lafontaine despised, he says, had meant that the government had achieved more peace with fewer weapons. To thunderous applause, he boozes: "Germans no longer have enemies."

As to socialist complaints about the high cost of unification, he asks: "What does it cost for all Germans to live together in freedom?" He goes on "What did it cost to keep Germany separated?", listing the expense of subsidising Berlin and the inner German border, paying for spies and the cost of spreading disinformation.

The chancellor's main message is that there is a lot of hard work ahead. It is an unappealing election pledge of toil, sweat and even some tears ahead. But there is the promise of "peace and not blood" in compensation.

As the red, gold and black German tricolour waves on the giant television screen at the end of the hall, Herr Kohl's admirers rise proudly to their feet and sing to Haydn's music: "Für das deutsche Vaterland." The national anthem has become the victory march of the Christian Democrats.

With the British Army of the Rhine cutting its strength by a half to about 25,000 men, the American army initially pulling back another 60,000 men and the French preparing to pull out altogether, the German unions are bracing themselves for considerable unemployment. The unions estimate that already some 23,000 jobs are threatened and that many more will follow.

Such large-scale closures will be serious because the bases are often in isolated areas where they provide the only significant source of full-time work, while many tradesmen, such as builders, mechanics and publicans, rely heavily on income from the troops. Workers are also worried that they will lose their homes along with their jobs because many have been given accommodation on the bases.

Strikers out to save Nato jobs

By IAN MURRAY

CIVILIAN workers at British and American military installations in Germany staged a third day of token strikes yesterday to press their case for new work contracts.

The public service union which is organising the strikes is pressing for guarantees of jobs or re-training for members facing redundancy, as troop reductions lead to the closure of bases.

Yesterday's strikes affected the British base at Bergen-Hohne in Lower Saxony and the American base at Neu Ulm in Bavaria. In similar actions at other Nato bases on Monday and Tuesday, about a quarter of the 100,000 civilian workers in Germany took part. Last Friday a small group tried, unsuccessfully, to petition the Queen during her visit to RAF Laarbrück to publicise their case.

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DRILLING OF HANDS AND FEET.

BEATEN UNTIL SKIN IS RAW AND THEN THROWN IN SALT WATER.

HAVING FINGERS AND TOENAILS PULLED OUT.

AMPUTATION OF LIMBS.

FEET BEATEN RAW WITH STICKS, THEN BEING FORCED TO WALK.

AND THEN THE REAL TORTURE STARTS.

After enduring days of these brutal acts without giving Saddam Hussein's torturers any information, Kuwaiti detainees are forced to confess. As their families are subjected to barbarous treatment.

Both men and women are sexually assaulted and raped. A pregnant woman was even impregnated in the stomach.

Children are beaten, assaulted, and then forced to give any information. Parents who refuse to give any information are tortured to death in any of the ways listed above.

Sometimes the motive is to extract information about the resistance and the

whereabouts of hidden Westerners, former Kuwaiti police, or food. But more often the reason is simply mindless brutality.

Saddam Hussein's total lack of respect for human life and rights means that these occurrences have become a part of everyday life in Kuwait.

Well over four thousand men, women and children have now been killed, many tortured to death, and countless thousands more have been injured, maimed or gone missing.

There's little chance even of medical treatment for the victims.

As not only have all the hospitals been

stripped of medical supplies and equipment, but doctors and nurses have been executed for trying to treat or save their own compatriots. These atrocities must be brought to an end, now. Your support is a start.

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الجامعة الأمريكية

Troops called out in Dhaka as crowds defy Ershad curfew

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THE army was called out to impose order in Dhaka, the Bangladesh capital, yesterday after crowds defied a curfew and attacked police in protest at a state of emergency declared on Tuesday.

The government has suspended all basic rights and imposed press censorship. President Ershad, addressing the nation on radio and television, said emergency rule was designed to save the country and economy from rampant violence and destructive politics.

Opposition parties have been waging a fierce campaign for the past six weeks to bring down the Ershad administration, resulting in large numbers of deaths and injuries. Troops in lorries and jeeps

patrolled Dhaka yesterday. Crowds angry at the arrest of leading opposition figures blocked roads, stoned police, and erected barricades against troops who opened fire in two areas of Dhaka, injuring at least three people, witnesses said.

At one point a mob of 3,000 turned on a group of 30 riot police with sticks, knives and iron rods. Police fired tear gas, but retreated without resorting to gunfire. Casualties were reported in several areas of the capital despite the curfew, which kept most of the population of seven million off the streets.

No newspapers appeared yesterday because journalists went on indefinite strike on Tuesday in protest on censorship.

Students from Dhaka University and Dhaka Medical College headed many of the street protests yesterday. Witnesses said the entire university campus and its adjacent areas were a virtual battlefield between supporters of the ruling Jatiya party and the mainstream opposition, with frequent exchanges of gunfire.

This is the third emergency declared since President Ershad, then a general, took power in a bloodless coup in 1982, and the fourth since Bangladesh became an independent country in 1971. President Ershad is planning to stand for re-election in a poll expected in May.

The three principal opposition parties, which have not taken part in any elections since 1986, argue that free and fair elections are impossible under President Ershad's rule, renewed their anti-government campaign on October 10. They are demanding President Ershad's resignation and then parliamentary elections under a neutral, caretaker government.

Direct rule, backed by most political parties in Delhi, is bound to sour the atmosphere as Chandra Shekhar, the new prime minister, prepares to launch political initiatives in Kashmir and Punjab.

Assam has become synonymous with one of most brutal terror campaigns in India. In recent weeks international tea companies have pulled out of the state, saying it has become impossible to function.

The separatists have long harassed the tea industry, frequently demanding huge amounts of protection money which the Indian Tea Association insists have never been paid. But it is widely believed that many tea gardens have been buying peace for years.

Delhi imposes its rule on Assam

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian government yesterday imposed direct rule over the state of Assam, whose huge tea plantations have become a virtual war zone in years of fierce conflict involving Indian and international tea companies.

Immediately after the announcement, Indian security forces mounted operations in areas under the control of the extremist United Liberation Front of Assam. Police and border security forces are being doubled to more than 6,000 men and the army has been placed on standby.

It is the third Indian state to come under direct rule, after Kashmir and Punjab. The move means that state-wide elections due next month will not be held. The government declared the entire region a disturbed area and banned the front, which is demanding a separate homeland called Assom. The state assembly has been suspended.

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The separatists have long harassed the tea industry, frequently demanding huge amounts of protection money which the Indian Tea Association insists have never been paid. But it is widely believed that many tea gardens have been buying peace for years.

Peking strong-arm squads equipped for shock tactics

From CATHERINE SAMSON IN PEKING

IN THE dimness of the police supply shop, electricity crackles and blue sparks fly. A group of young men, some in leather jackets, none in uniform, are trying out electric cattle prods, jabbing at the counter as they might at a "counter-revolutionary" or a "hoogian", or a foreign journalist.

The anonymous young men compare the relative ferocity of the prods, which look like ordinary rubber truncheons except for a thin metallic band that winds down their length and ends in two protruding metal prongs between which the current dances at the flick of a switch.

This shop is a window on a wide array of equipment available to China's security forces as they go about their task of controlling the masses, many of whom see them as bullies, inefficient, and more than a little corrupt.

The electric cattle prods are made in China and retail at between £10 and £20. They range anywhere between the modest 6in and the threatening 3ft versions. They are a common sight around Peking, carried by private security guards as well as by police. Also on sale here are riot shields, bullet-proof waist-coats in military camouflage

or in a smart grey tweed, hand grenades, a document shredder and imported portable radios.

A natty infra-red light guarantees that you can keep watch on people at night. If you need to watch your back, you can buy glasses which at the far edge of each lens have a mirror.

Ordinary mortals, foreigners included, are only allowed to purchase certain articles, like mirror glasses.

The hand grenades and electric cattle prods are only for those who can produce a certificate stating that they work for one of the private or public security agencies.

According to a new directive, selling police insignia and uniforms is also restricted, because there are too many people around pretending to be police. In one city, a survey found that many people wearing police uniform were not policemen. A number of offenders said that they wore the uniform to make life easier for themselves; this way nobody would dare to hassle them, and would instead be obviously pointed.

Others admitted that wearing the uniform was an excellent way to make money, standing by the road and arbitrarily imposing fines.

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Transfer of power: Singapore's new prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, right, who signifies a gentler era, with the outgoing prime minister of 31 years, Lee Kuan Yew, after they were sworn into the new government yesterday

Boat people refuse return to Hanoi

From PAUL MOONEY
IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong's repatriation programme has run into trouble as three quarters of a group of 111 boat people scheduled to return to Vietnam backed out in the days before their departure. The refusal forced the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to cancel the flight yesterday, less than 24 hours before the group was due to fly off.

Robert Van Leeuwen, UNHCR's head in Hong Kong, did not say how many people from the group were still willing

to return to Vietnam, but he confirmed that they would now leave for Hanoi on Saturday with an unspecified number of boat people returning under a separate voluntary programme.

Many Vietnamese within the camps are suspicious that the new scheme is just a new name for mandatory repatriation. Mr Van Leeuwen said that the decision by the Vietnamese not to return proved that force was not being used.

It is believed that the Vietnamese changed their minds after rumours began being spread among the refugees that returning boat people were being mis-

treated. Refugee workers have confirmed that pamphlets are circulating in the camps warning the refugees that those who returned would be tortured and possibly even killed.

Earlier this month, a high court judge ordered the release of another group of 111 Vietnamese boat people held in detention in Hong Kong for 18 months, on the ground that the government had detained the group illegally.

Last week nine boat people who had been refused refugee status won a high court judicial review, arguing that the screening process was flawed.

Ceasefire signed by Liberians

Bamako, Mali — The three belligerents in the Liberian civil war, including Charles Taylor, the rebel leader, signed a ceasefire accord here.

The pact was also signed by a representative of Prince Johnson's breakaway independent force and by Major Wilmet Diggs, representing the forces loyal to Samuel Doe, the late president. (AFP)

IRA trial date

Amsterdam — The trial of three suspected IRA members accused of murdering two Australian tourists in May will begin on February 20. The prosecution hopes Donna McGuire will be extradited from Belgium to stand trial at the same time. (Reuters)

Aids charge

Sydney — Robbers using syringes filled with Aids-infected blood as weapons face up to 25 years in jail in New South Wales. Reacting to a series of syringe attacks, the state government said it would introduce the legislation this week. (Reuters)

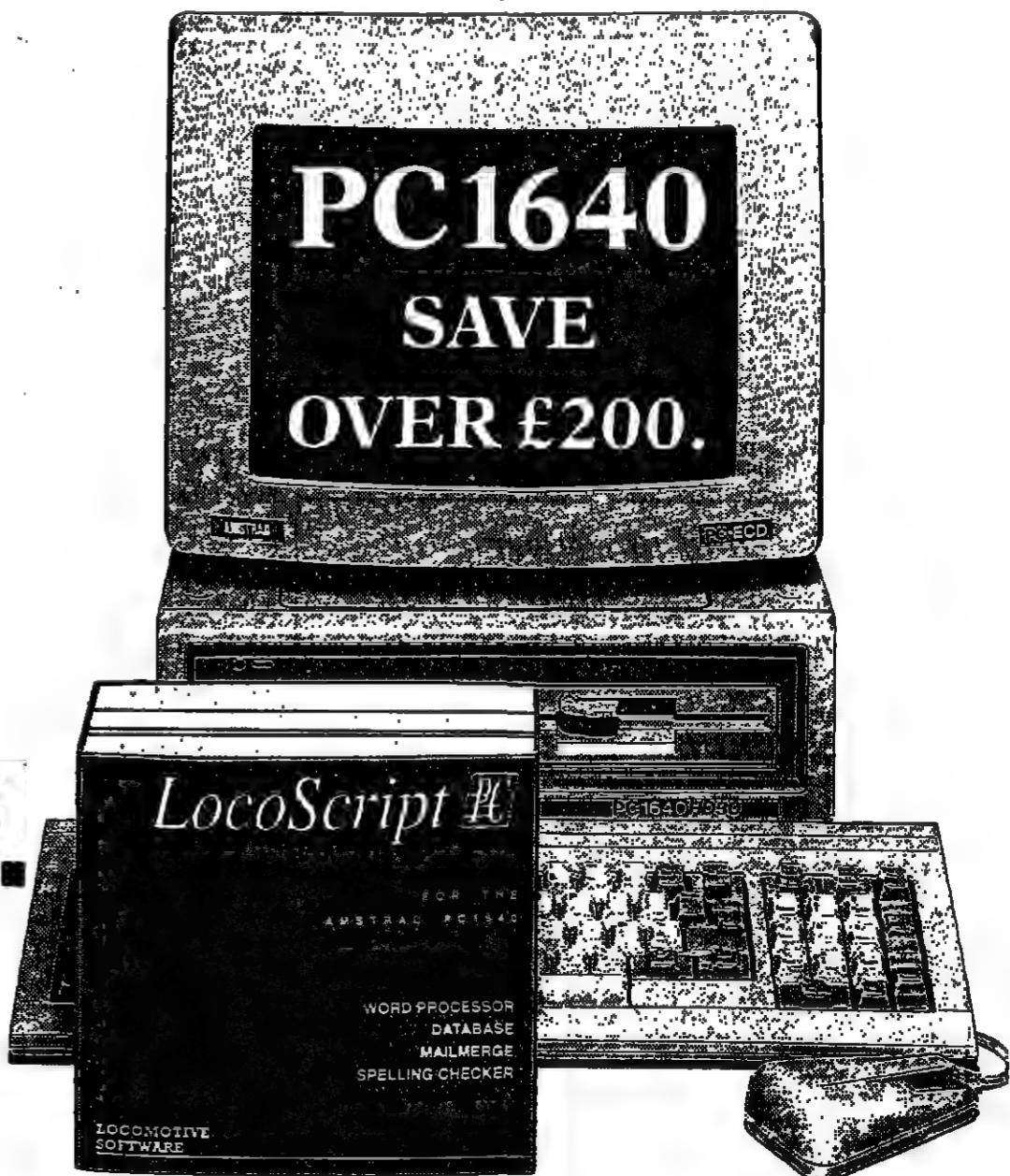
Student Rambo

Brussels — A schoolboy aged 12, dubbed "Rambo in shorts", threatened classmates with a revolver stolen from his father. Police said the boy forced his fellow student against a wall with the loaded gun before being disarmed by a teacher. (Reuters)

Jagger 'a Hindu'

Jakarta — A priest who conducted the secret wedding of rock star Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall on the island of Bali last week said the couple had converted to Hinduism. Ida Pedanda Sukawati said that they had signed a letter stating their commitment at the ceremony. (Reuters)

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Is that liberty's light ahead?

Mary Ann Sieghart

Imagine being stuck for days in a cave, deep in a pothole. Chipping at the wall offers little hope of escape. The cave becomes stiffer and more claustrophobic. The wall shows no sign of giving way. Suddenly, lo! a hole has been made; and beyond it is another cave, brimming with oxygen, and with a chunk of daylight. That is the reaction of a natural liberal faced with a new Tory leader. After 11½ years of government by a natural illiberal, there is now, at last, the chance of change. Social liberalism is not incompatible with conservatism; indeed it should complement economic liberalism. Yet under Mrs Thatcher, it was not allowed to.

That made voting Tory impossible. How could someone who believes in maximising individual freedom vote for a party that insisted on granite-hard secrecy, the undermining of local democracy, and the restraint of freedom of expression? Only through council-house sales and parent power in schools did the Thatcher government give any power back to the citizen.

The initial success of the SDP was due as much to a reaction against the Conservatives under Mrs Thatcher as to the leftward move of Labour. Some SDP supporters now vote Liberal Democrat; many have switched to Labour; but they support the free market, and might be persuaded to move back to the Tories if John Major were to harness a new social liberalism to his economic liberalism.

The most useful piece of clothing he could steal from the centre party is constitutional reform. If he believes in individual freedom, he should also want human rights and civil liberties for all citizens. Britain signed the European Convention on Human Rights in 1950, yet still does not grant British citizens its protection in domestic law. Redress can only be sought after many years and much expense, in Strasbourg. The Convention should become Britain's bill of rights.

Next, Mr Major should bring subsidiarity to Britain; that is, to allow decisions to be taken at the lowest possible level by the people affected, giving them maximum control over their lives. British government is grotesquely centralised, and thus paternalistic. If people want to vote locally for a party that will levy a high poll tax, let them. Give local government more power and autonomy. Central government should set standards, but delegate administration to those whose lives are affected. Proposals floated by Mr Heseltine for elected mayors and local referendums are a start.

Then Mr Major should back proportional representation. The first-past-the-post system rewards parties with patchy support, and punishes those that appeal to all

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

When she was 11, my younger daughter told me she just could not imagine ever giving up *Bunty* ... "I mean where could one read about more amazingly interesting people than the Four Marys?" I thought about this, had to agree she was probably right about the Marys, but opined that she was likely to move on to more serious literature as she grew older. I was wrong. She will be 29 in January and still reads *Bunty*.

I'm pretty sure it was *Bunty*'s influence that made her decide to go on "the adventure". Last Saturday Emma and her friend Helen flew to Guatemala for a month. Just like that. Guatemala sounded exciting and they have had five Spanish lessons. We met for lunch on the day before departure. She ordered caviar, asked whether I was worried about her. I said not, unless she ordered a lot more caviar. She said: "I mean worried about me going to Guatemala; did you know there's dense jungle in Guatemala?" She explained she wanted to leave her body to science; her money to Comic Relief; I am to get her espresso coffee machine. We kissed. She said: "Now you're worried." I denied it.

It was all those years in the House of Commons that made me ring Douglas Hurd's secretary later that afternoon, ask for the name of the occupant of the Central American desk at the Foreign Office and discuss with this man tourist safety in Guatemala. He said the city was pretty safe, was not sure about the jungle. He gave me the names of our ambassador and minister, explaining that the embassy was of only modest size, and the 13-digit telephone number. The fathers of the Four Marys in *Bunty* would have done no less; one of them is in the House of Lords and another, altogether more modest socially, was "the bravest corporal in the world war".

My British Telecom codebook states that Guatemala is a Band 10 country: self-dialled calls cost £1.37 per minute at peak time, £1.17 at night. Throwing fiscal caution to the wind I dialled Guatemala City. A foreign voice answered; it was a disappointment for I had rather expected H.E. to reply

types of people. Classlessness is what John Major wants — yet the more classless the party, the fewer seats it wins.

Next, he should commit himself to the reform of government and Parliament. British government is unacceptably fortress-like. The recent Official Secrets Act forbids civil servants to breach confidentiality even in the public interest. The 30-year rule makes it hard for governments to learn from past mistakes. Only through parliamentary questions and select committees, both of which are easily dodged, is there even a semblance of accountability.

Mrs Thatcher's government made narrowly political issues that ought to be free from politics. By appointing people in her own image to public bodies, she has ensured that they would be replaced by Labour appointees, so destroying the precious tradition of politically independent appointments. She published white papers without preceding consultative documents, so stifling informed discussion of policy. And she used the lobby system to vent her spleen anonymously upon her own ministers. All this can and should be changed.

So too should the workings of Parliament. The House of Lords is undemocratic and personifies the class system. Members of Parliament have very little power to amend legislation. The hours they work may suit male barristers, but they are a great deterrent to women with children.

A socially liberal government would do its best to weed out discrimination based on sex, race or age. It would lead by example: promoting women to the cabinet, allowing flexible retirement in the civil service, denouncing racism. American experience shows that one of the best ways of reducing discrimination in jobs is for the public sector to insist that all its contractors have a workforce reflecting the racial composition of the area. There is now a fair employment law in Northern Ireland to protect Catholics. The same could be done for blacks here.

Mr Major should shrug his shoulders when his colleagues complain of bias on the BBC. He should advise viewers to switch channels if they object to sexy programmes. He should proclaim the merits of an unfettered press.

Nobody would expect him to adopt all of these measures. But none is incompatible with his personal principles, and enacting some would begin to attract liberals back to the Tory party. If he were a true libertarian, of course, he would decriminalise illegal drugs. He would disestablish the Church of England and abolish the law of blasphemy. He could even lower the age of consent for homosexuals. But this, of a Conservative, might be too much to ask.

Then Mr Major should back proportional representation. The first-past-the-post system rewards parties with patchy support, and punishes those that appeal to all

Leon Brittan believes we could join the slow track of a two-speed Community

How Major can heal the Europe rift

Europe was the cause, or at least the catalyst, of the traumatic events of the past month. Can John Major reunite the Conservative party on this issue? Or are the divisions too deep? I think they are not.

There will always be a few people who regret that we ever joined the Community, and a few who will go along with any nonsense put forward in the name of European unity. But most Conservatives take a more pragmatic view. They would agree that making a success of our relationship with our EC partners is crucial to our economic and political future, and that the best way of maximising our influence is by showing our partners that we share their basic objectives, even if we sometimes want to achieve them by a different route and at a different pace.

Britain has already put forward its ideas for economic and monetary union, in the shape of Mr Major's hard ecu plan. That plan involves the setting up of a supranational body, the European monetary fund, which will issue hard ecus, and, by setting ecu interest rates, have increasing control over our monetary policy.

Not only could the plan lead to a single currency, if it is at all

successful, it is likely to do so, and very possibly more quickly than the Delors plan. Once this is clearly recognised, there is therefore no vast ideological gulf between the two plans. They are different ways of reaching the same objective.

But does not that objective involve giving up a crucial aspect of our sovereignty? For a pragmatic party this is a strongly ideological argument. There is only one purpose in the exercise of sovereignty: to have the greatest possible influence over our future. In a world where our interest rates are at the mercy of the Bundesbank, we should beware of mistaking the legal shell of sovereignty for the reality of genuine control over our destiny. We would have more control over monetary policy if the Bank of England played a significant role in a European central bank than if we have to follow the decisions of the Bundesbank without any say in their formulation. And if our partners go ahead without us, as they certainly will if necessary, we would have even less effective control over our monetary policy in the shadow of a European central bank.

What, though, of the conference starting next month on political changes in the Community? Conservatives need have no fear that this will lead to a headlong

rush towards a federal Europe. For all the brave talk in some quarters, there is not the slightest chance of that happening. At most, the European Parliament's powers will be slightly increased. There is no question of any substantial enhancement of the role of the Commission. At this conference Britain could achieve changes which would do much to allay the anxiety that the Community is inexorably assuming more and more power. For the Commission has itself proposed that the principle of "subsidiarity" should be enshrined in the Treaty. This would ensure that decisions were taken at Community level only when they could not better be left to the member states themselves. If that principle were firmly enshrined in the Treaty, the Community could take on new tasks, such as monetary policy, when really necessary. Equally, there could well be occasions when what has been done by the Community in the past would be handed back to the member states.

The conference also provides an opportunity for injecting into the Community a new influence that of the national parliaments, acting collectively through a new body comprising representatives of those parliaments. This body, as suggested by the Commission, would be kept in close touch with Community legislation, and doubtless express its views on whether what is proposed really needs to be done at Community level.

But perhaps the most important role of this conference should be to prepare the Community for a development that is at the forefront of Conservative thinking on Europe: the entry into the Community of other European countries who are ready and able to accept the obligations that membership involves. For it is difficult enough to get legislation through in a Community of 12. It is time to start planning the changes needed for a Community of 18 or 20 to retain its dynamism.

There is, therefore, ample scope for a Conservative government to play a forward-looking and constructive role in the current debates about the future of the Community, without in any way compromising our national interests or national identity. Indeed, if Mr Major adopts such an approach, with patience and sensitivity, he will unite the great mass of the party and do a service both to this country and to the Community as a whole.

Sir Leon Brittan is vice-president of the European Commission.

Shameful signs, but the dark age will not descend again

A group of MPs has just urged prosecution of those who circulate scurrilous anti-Semitic leaflets and the like, the official policy at present being that such things are better ignored. (Well, if you thought anti-Semitism had vanished, you must be of a very sanguine disposition; that tap has still not stopped dripping.) But a new argument has arisen among Jews themselves as to whether there is real danger.

In Britain there has of late been a substantial rise in physical attacks on Jews, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries (swastikas have been daubed on headstones) and the circulation of the manner the MPs are concerned about, including truly lunatic claims that the Holocaust never happened. In addition, it was inevitable that the appalling events in Israel would blur for some the definition boundary between Jews and the Jewish state. (Indeed, the more implacably fanatical of the Israel-haters must have welcomed the Temple Mount killings, offering as they did an opportunity to damage Israel seriously, and thus speed the day when it is expunged from the map.)

Jews in Britain have since divided sharply; one voice argues for calm, insisting that however unpleasant these manifestations, they pose no general threat. The Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, inclines to this view, but it is fiercely rejected by other Jews, who do not think at all funny the archetype Jewish joke, which runs like this: Two Jews are sentenced to death, and are to be shot. The officer in charge is about to give the order to fire, when one of the condemned men calls out "I want a blindfold." "Hush," says the other, "don't make trouble."

The Jews of Europe made no trouble, and died in their millions. In any discussion of anti-Semitism it is impossible to make any sense of the pros and cons unless the stupendous fact of the Holocaust is kept prominently in mind. Over the centuries, many races, religions, beliefs, nationalities, groups of all kinds, have been persecuted, sometimes with frightful slaughter, but in all the recorded history of the world, there has been nothing like the Jewish Holocaust. I know of British-born Jews — sophisticated,

intelligent, well-read, stable, with no history of being persecuted or even insulted, and without the traumas of relatives killed in the Final Solution — who genuinely think there is a real possibility of something like that one day happening again in Britain.

It is no use arguing with such a conviction, for such inner torment is not subject to the tests of reason.

So when a Jewish shop-window is smashed by a drunken skinhead with half his head painted orange and the other half purple, such people take it as a harbinger of something far more terrible.

I am an entirely assimilated Jew, taking very little interest in Jewish life or customs, though naturally grateful for my Jewish blood and what it has given me; moreover, I have spent my working life in a profession quite exceptionally free of anti-Semitic

tension, and my personal life in circles where I have almost never encountered it even tangentially. The retort is inevitable: "It's all right for you." So it is. But I am convinced, and not by hunch but by evidence, that it is all right for others, too. Here I must reminisce.

Just after the end of World War Two, Oswald Mosley, gathering together the scattered remnants of his British Union of Fascists, had tested the temper of the country briefly with a view to re-starting the Final Solution — who genuinely think there is a real possibility of something like that one day happening again in Britain.

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voice among the hungry, homeless and unemployed ready to blame their plight on the Jews.

Nevertheless we must distinguish between anti-Semitism as a feeling, held deeply and persistently or occasionally and fleetingly, and a doctrine that demands action to fulfil it. I am not much given to insisting on perspectives, but here we must hang on to one, or we shall end up thinking that the knock at the door signals a pogrom rather than a postman. Obviously, I can see a distinction between one who feels hostility towards Jews and one who beats up a Jew. But I go further — some will say dangerously further. I would put both the hostility and the punch into one scale, and only an outbreak of real Jewish discrimination or persecution in the other.

If you — Jew or Gentile — reject such an attitude, as I unapologetically do, you are seeking the abolition of hostile feelings towards Jews. It is very likely that Jew-hatred through history created a forcing-house of Jewish talent and achievement, but unless you think it would be a pity, if that ceased to be true I imagine that you would wish to see the end of anti-Semitism. So would I, but if your definition of it remains mere distaste of Jews, I do assure you that demands for the abolition of anti-Semitism to be completed by the end of the week after next will not only cause disappointment when it does not come about, but will weaken the vigilance necessary to combat the unpleasant but insignificant manifestations we have lately seen.

The manifestations in the East will need closer inspection, and they may turn into something very sinister, but even those do not persuade me that a new *Nazi und Nezeit* is brewing for the Jews beyond the pale, let alone this side of it. The Holocaust indelibly stained Germany, the rest of the world, and the universe itself. That dreadful truth alone means that anyone who speaks casually or lightly, let alone approvingly, of anti-Semitism is a fool, if not a scoundrel. But the Jewish Dark Ages will not come again.

rolling acres, all six of them. I have often thought about reaching the peak and summit. My career has been carefully planned for this moment," he said.

The foreign secretary was talking about his consolation prize as *The Spectator* conferred upon him its award of Parliamentarian of the Year. He also spoke of the huge postbag he had received during the contest, most ending with the words: "My firm's removal services are second to none. A special price is available".

Another important player of recent weeks, Sir Geoffrey Howe, was present to collect his award for the speech of the year — the one that started the whole thing off — while Paddy Ashdown was declared party leader of the year. Hardly a great achievement, as he pointed out. At the start of 1990 there were five party leaders; now only two remain in post.

Tony Benn, absent in Baghdad, was declared backbencher of the year and Clare Short the year's most tenacious campaigner.

Brian Wilson, winner of the "member to watch" award, remarked that Major saw off the competition "because he was the member no one was watching".

Best reflection of the week on the first Tory leader in modern times to have left school at 16: "I could have imagined the Tory party changing so much as to hold it against a man that he went to Eton... but not that he went to university." The originator? Believed to be Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.



DIARY

By MICHAEL PARKINSON

Illustration by Peter Brook



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DEFINING POST-THATCHERISM

The back-seat driver — if Margaret Thatcher ever pondered the role — has been thrown from the car at the first turn. The return of Michael Heseltine to the environment department is the most exciting of John Major's cabinet appointments, both for its policy implications and for its signal that Mrs Thatcher is leaving her successor to be his own man.

Mr Major's cabinet is of nobody's design but his own. In choosing Norman Lamont as Chancellor of the Exchequer, high in Whitehall cumming but low in presentational skill, he has indicated that he intends to keep a personal hold on economic policy. In keeping Douglas Hurd and Tom King in place, he has wisely delegated foreign affairs and defence to those with great experience at a crucial time.

He has sent Mrs Thatcher's trusty home secretary, David Waddington, to the Lords, and her trusty chief whip, Tim Renton, off to the arts. He will keep his troops in line with Richard Ryden as Chief Whip. And with Chris Patten as party chairman, he has shown that middle-of-the-road Toryism is to be the guiding principle of the coming election campaign. Whatever else this cabinet may be, Thatcherite it is not.

As Mr Heseltine's presence proves, most attention is being given to his intentions for the poll tax. All those now concerned with it — prime minister, chancellor, environment secretary and party chairman — have privately declared it to be a terrible mistake. Mr Patten has come to the view that it should be replaced with some version of the rating system, possibly with a capitalisation supplement. The famous Treasury "secret alternative" to the tax, mentioned recently by Nigel Lawson, is for a form of property value rating. During the leadership campaign, Mr Heseltine was all over the shop on the subject, but will not be idle in seeking reform.

As *The Times* has often suggested, the best way forward is for the cabinet immediately to depoliticise the reform of local taxation. Expert opinion, the Opposition and leading members of the government accept that a return to property value as the basis for local revenue is now inevitable. The important task is to find the most sensible, and the quickest, route back.

More significant in the longer term is the impact Mr Heseltine can make on the environ-

ment of Britain in the widest sense. He is a man of vigour and imagination. In the cities, the Thatcherite philosophy of *laissez faire* was tested to destruction, and largely failed the test. The public/private sector partnership underpinning the revival of American cities has hardly been applied in Britain. The emasculation of local government by the government's crass treatment of local councils was one cause. Another was the government's inept attempts to reform local finance.

In Mr Heseltine's hands lies the revival of British constitutional devolution. As long as councils are treated as naturally irresponsible agencies of central bureaucracy, the local elected politicians will not feel the commitment and accountability that are crucial to urban revival. They will simply blame the pain of post-industrial reconstruction on national government — as they have done for a decade. Correcting this evil by stabilising local finance, reforming local government and galvanising its leaders is Mr Heseltine's biggest challenge.

He has others. He must neutralise the "green" lobby. He must emphatically mark the end of the era, associated with Nicholas Ridley, when Toryism was associated with sacrificing the countryside to unco-ordinated development. He knows, as do all who know provincial Britain, that the inner towns and cities offer ample room for the development pressure of which Mr Ridley made so much. The decline of the farming industry will mean intense pressure to suburbanise the countryside, and free marketeers will tell the government to let rip. Mr Heseltine should resist this pressure. He should restate the cardinal principles of Tory town and country planning, a marriage of economic growth and democratic control over environmental change.

Michael Heseltine's return to government at this juncture is significant. He is one of the most experienced and certainly the most politically effective of Mr Major's colleagues. He towers above the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. His temperament will be very tested in cabinet. His patience must be set.

Mr Heseltine made himself the symbol of anti-Thatcherism. The prime minister has challenged him to help to define post-Thatcherism.

ONCE MORE WITH GUSTO

John Major was right in saying on the steps of Downing Street yesterday that the way ahead will be neither quick nor easy — especially so, given the legacy of the simultaneous inflation and recession which the former chancellor and former Treasury chief secretary has bequeathed to himself.

The new government's honeymoon in the financial markets lasted only hours, before the pound started sinking within its band in the European Monetary System. The weakness of sterling may well deter big cuts in interest rates, although a token half per cent reduction is still likely, and desirable, before Christmas. As industrialists and home owners realise that high interest rates were not just a personal whim of Mrs Thatcher, there may be a waning of public enthusiasm for Mr Major. And if the present Conservatives' opinion poll lead over Labour vanishes, the vicious circle of political uncertainty, leading to sterling weakness and high interest rates, could easily reappear.

Can Mr Major break clear? There is a strong view in the Treasury and the Bank of England that he should not even try. The present high interest rates are seen by some of Mr Major's advisers as a desirable discipline imposed on Britain by the EMS. In their view, the year-long recession, predicted by the chairman of ICI and others this week, is an unavoidable sacrifice to curb the excesses of the late 1980s.

If Mr Major has shared this view while at the Treasury, he should think again at Number 10. A long recession is not the most reliable way of curing a chronic inflation. If it were, Britain would have enjoyed price stability throughout the 1980s as a result of the shock of 1979-81. A semi-fixed exchange rate does not provide a guarantee against monetary miscalculations.

A link to a strong currency can be a useful anti-inflationary weapon, but only if the exchange rate is compatible with long-term economic equilibrium and is one that financial markets accept as fair. Even in these circum-

stances, the exchange rate should be viewed only as one of a number of economic indicators, including money supply, fiscal and credit figures and leading signals from the real economy, including industrial order books and wage behaviour. This is how the Bundesbank conducts its monetary policy, setting its duty towards the domestic economy ahead of any exchange rate consideration. So if conditions in the home economy point to lower interest rates, the new government should not be deterred by fears about the currency.

Certainly a recession/pin can burst the kind of inflationary bubble, much arising from the property market, which developed in Britain last year. Beyond that, structural measures must complement a carefully judged macro-economic policy if long-term inflationary expectations are to be overcome. In the early 1980s, Margaret Thatcher provided some triumphant instances of structural policies against inflation. Changes in labour law, industrial deregulation, privatisation and the opening up of the housing market ranked among her anti-inflationary achievements. As a result, inflation is now much less severe than it was ten years ago. But structural inflation has by no means been rooted out.

In the housing market, the growth of credit must be curbed and rented accommodation further encouraged. In the labour market, there are professional cartels to be dissolved and shortages of skilled labour to be corrected. In the public sector, there is still much scope to improve productivity and reorder pay policy. In the private sector, there are still monopolies to be broken and government subsidies to be removed. In the infrastructure, there is still a need for more privatisation and better management, as well as more investment.

This is the anti-inflationary agenda which Mr Major should now be considering. If he approaches it with renewed gusto, the present recession should not be needlessly prolonged.

GREENING THE MARKETPLACE

With yesterday's proposals for an environmental labelling scheme, the European Commission has for once put the shopper first. The more anxious manufacturers become to cash in on "green consumerism", the more tempted their marketing departments are to make bogus claims, and the greater the need for reliable standards by which to judge their green-tinted incitements to buy. Under the scheme, companies which believed their products met certain agreed standards could choose to apply for the right to carry a label proclaiming their environmental respectability.

Going to the supermarket has become for a minor research project for the would-be "green consumer". How can shoppers be expected to know whether the tins in that tin happen along with hundreds of dolphins? Carefully generalised claims that products X and Y are "environmentally friendly" are impossible to check without a refresher course in science.

The question is whether such schemes are best managed at national or EC level. The Commission itself is unusually diligent on that point, proposing that its own level should be used in parallel with national schemes such as Germany's well-tried "blue angel" label for the first five years, after which an EC label could be adopted by all. There are market arguments for and against EC regulation.

The case for national schemes is that competition could act as a spur to raising standards, provided that, as in Germany, foreign companies are free to apply for the most respected badges of honour. Speed and flexibility, essential for a successful vetting

scheme, are not the established forte of the Brussels bureaucracy. There could be endless delays while 12 governments haggle in Brussels over the criteria for product selection.

The case against is that a dozen different sets of criteria could undo some of the benefits of the single European market. The scope for green-coated protectionism is limitless. This is one case where the principle of subsidiarity dictates the setting of standards by the larger regional unit, while leaving implementation to national governments.

Chris Patten has been prodding the Commission to come up with a scheme throughout his 16 months as environment secretary. The EC scheme, in which participation is voluntary, closely reflects his thinking. Companies which applied would have to satisfy "cradle to grave" standards on the raw materials and energy used in production, and the safety of using and disposing of products. Michael Heseltine, who yesterday succeeded Mr Patten, should give it firm but conditional support as the details are negotiated.

His first condition should be that the scheme must be simple to administer and largely financed by the producers, who will reap the benefits in the marketplace. Secondly, he should insist that the EC scheme is open to non-EC producers. Otherwise, national protectionism could be replaced by "green" trade barriers around Fortress Europe. Finally, Mr Heseltine should stand by Mr Patten's promise to bring in national labelling in 1992 if the EC scheme is not up and running by the end of next year. Baffled consumers expect no less.

Lessons of the leadership ballots

From Sir Richard Parsons

Sir, The constitutional aspect is perhaps, in the long term, the most important of the circumstances surrounding the change of prime minister. Since power corrupts, any society needs to find a way to control its use. The American founding fathers did so through the separation of powers between the administration, the legislature and the judiciary. In Britain we have preferred to give a cabinet government responsible to a House of Commons elected by the people.

What has gone wrong here recently is that Mrs Thatcher has over-dominated her cabinets, reducing our system to a *de facto* presidency, potentially damaging to consideration that parliamentary procedural rules be introduced to prevent the holding of a leadership position in any political party for more than two parliamentary terms.

Marion Paviour

Sir, In the light of recent events and the comparative worth of the more senior members of all political parties, it is not worthy of consideration that parliamentary

procedural rules be introduced to prevent the holding of a leadership position in any political party for more than two parliamentary terms.

Yours sincerely,

WINSTON FLETCHER,

25 Wellington Street, WC2.

From Mrs M. Paviour

Sir, In his first statement the leadership

election procedure is too complicated. Yet it seems to have been followed with fascination and apparent understanding by a large proportion of the public.

The Tory system is open, sensible and honestly fair to all contenders. I believe the Tories have gained in both respect and popularity as a result. Why change it?

Yours sincerely,

WINSTON FLETCHER,

25 Wellington Street, WC2.

From Mrs Eileen Appleby

Sir, Margaret Thatcher got more than half the votes and lost. John Major got fewer than half the votes and won. Can this be right?

Yours faithfully,

EILEEN APPLEBY,

44 Edmund Road, Bedford Park, W4.

From Mr Peter Arnold

Sir, Why all the criticism of the Tories' leadership election system? After all, what other spectacle could they have staged to gain about 25 "quick" points in the opinion polls just prior to a general election? What a fine competition!

Yours faithfully,

PETER ARNOLD,

Montrose, Marsham Way,

Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr D. J. Budd and
Mr K. H. Day

Sir, By his magnanimous statement in defeat Michael Heseltine has not only salvaged his own position in the Conservative party but will also restore the faith of many of those who considered him the assassin of Margaret Thatcher. We are, Sir, yours etc.,

D. J. BUDD,

KEITH DAY,

1 Beaumont Road,

Winchester, Hampshire.

From Mrs Jennifer Moody

Sir, What a fine irony if those Conservative MPs who offered their vote in the hope of preventing more than one leadership candidate were to find, when claiming their reward, that it had been offered to more than one MP.

Yours etc.,

JENNIFER MOODY,

2 Alwyne Place, N1.

November 27.

From Miss P. Drew

Sir, The result of our "mock" leadership election was declared at 3pm on Tuesday, November 27.

Out of a total electorate of 527, staff and students, the percentage of votes cast for each candidate, compared with the real event (in brackets), was:

John Major 49.7 (49.7)

Michael Heseltine 33.8 (35.2)

Douglas Hurd 16.5 (15.1)

We are now open to offers for sample testing on any product, policy or party which people may care to put our way.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICIA DREW

(Head of sixth form),

Malvern Girls' College,

Malvern, Worcestershire.

November 28.

From Miss Gillian Godley

Sir, Was it not a pleasure to witness such a well-mannered and sporting run campaign?

Yours faithfully,

GILLIAN GODLEY,

Four Pines, May Lane,

Haslemere, Surrey.

From Mr H. St. J. B. Armitage

Sir, Your correspondents today (November 23) appear to accept at face value Christopher Walker's assessment of morale in the RAF Tornado squadron in Dhahran (report, November 13). From my own observations, during a recent visit to that squadron, Mr Walker's report does not reflect the general morale of the unit.

With my colleagues, including the directors of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies and the International Institute for Strategic Studies, I was impressed by the unit's sense of purpose and application to the task — qualities which are not apparent, existent even, when morale is low.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY R. CARPENTER,

3 Kingston Drive,

Nailsea, Avon.

November 23.

From Dr J. A. Jarvis

Sir, Your expense, inconvenience and distress which is caused to individuals by the airlines' practice of overbooking flights is well known. Is the security risk also understood and accepted?

On October 22, I was booked to fly Air France flights from Manchester to Venice, via Paris. Whilst I was booking in with my luggage, the airline decided that the flight was overbooked, and I was transferred to a later flight. My luggage travelled by Air France without me.

Despite promises given in

Manchester, when I arrived in Paris I was refused permission to board the Air France flight, which was within 10-15 minutes of departure for Venice with my luggage on board. I spent a miserable day at Paris airport, but at least I was safe.

Air France officials in Paris said that it was impossible for luggage to travel unaccompanied, but mine did. Since then, a representative of Air France in London has pointed out that it is not illegal, just undesirable, for them to carry luggage which is unaccompanied and un-inspected; a spokesman in Manchester has told me that the fact I wished to travel on the relevant flight was sufficient safeguard.

The airlines may care little

about upset caused to passengers

by this practice. Can they be allowed to be equally unconcerned about passenger safety?

Yours faithfully,

J. A. JARVIS,

59 Harrington Street,

Handbridge, Chester.

From Dr P. C. Clemmow

Sir, I have for upwards of 40 years

been the owner of below-

mentioned house. It is now listed

Grade 2.

I recently received a communica-

tion from the district council

reminding me of my statutory

22 HEALTH

Major change in personality

Few who watched John Major's interview with Jonathan Dimbleby last week can have failed to be impressed by the calm but determined way in which he dealt with the questions, not all of them friendly. He was tough but relaxed and showed none of the physical signs of fear or anxiety. Doctors and other health workers were particularly pleased that he chose to emphasise his high regard for the NHS by referring to a potentially fatal childhood illness which was treated successfully, and some excellent orthopaedic surgery which gave him a serviceable leg after it had been almost severed in a road accident while serving with the Standard Chartered Bank in Nigeria. Mr Major's openness in talking about his past health when on the hustings is not shared by his press officers in Whitehall, who, perhaps conscious that his physical stamina has already been questioned, have stuck to what could be paraphrased as a determined "no comment" when asked for further details.

Mr Major has two disadvantages: he looks frail, which is quite different from being frail, and he has a physique which is

very different from other recent Chancellors, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Denis Healey. He may be a fine cricketer, but on the rugby field he would be more likely to be a touch judge than second row forward.

In fact, provided that people are not appreciably underweight, thin patients tend to do better than the heavyweights. His second problem is that he follows Margaret Thatcher, a tireless worker who refused even to take time off after varicose vein surgery.

During his three months at the Foreign Office, Mr Major and his wife, Norma, who lost pounds in weight despite the official entertaining, both looked acutely unhappy. He wore the expression of the harried new boy and she seemed overwhelmed by her new milieu. A very different picture of them both now emerges after a spell at Number 11. A colleague said that during the recent election campaign, Mr Major, like his predecessor, was capable of remaining alert on less than six hours' sleep a night. He seldom left headquarters before 2am, and was usually up at 6am for a broadcast. Despite the sleeplessness, he was always unflustered, and energy was dissipated as nervous energy; he proved even-



tempered and intellectually versatile under pressure.

The simple explanation that he was maintained by high levels of circulating adrenaline generated by the excitement of the election, and that this was not his character, is unlikely to be true. While at the Treasury he had no time off work through illness and worked long hours without complaint.

A more likely explanation for the apparent contradiction between the personality displayed while foreign secretary and that seen during his spell as Chancellor and during the campaigning is that his early chaotic

childhood has induced in him a deep insecurity. When he knows his subject and is therefore confident, he will be happy and assured. During the learning stage he may be miserable, and he would not be able to bluff. His moods also reflect his wife's: they are an intimate, mutually supporting pair, and if she is unhappy he will suffer in sympathy.

And what about the rumours that his recent teeth trouble was the physical manifestation of some inner turmoil? This is apparently quite untrue, and indeed he was in severe pain for a time and never complained once.

treated in the over-65s. Patients with high levels of cholesterol in this age group still have an increased risk of coronary heart disease, but some studies have shown that a slightly raised cholesterol level is not necessarily associated with an increased death rate, as in the over-65s a lower mortality from acute infections and cancer balances the adverse effect of raised blood fats on coronary heart disease.



treated if there is a leak from the plant.

In the event of a leak, the immediate risk is from inhalation of radioactive iodine, which would be abundantly present in the effluent and is very volatile. The radioactive iodine is readily concentrated by the thyroid gland. Children are at greater risk than adults, particularly those aged between six and 12 months. Caesium and strontium, other hazards of fallout, pose a less immediate danger, but like radioactive iodine can later contaminate the milk supply. Giving a stable iodide, such as potassium iodide, at the moment of disaster reduces by a factor of ten the dose of the carcinogenic radioactive iodine which will be picked up by the thyroid gland. Appreciably lower absorption rates can also be obtained if the tablets are taken at any time up to four hours after exposure.

Tissues vary in their susceptibility to radiation. Apart from the particular risk to the thyroid gland, there is also an increased risk of leukaemia and damage to the reproductive system.

Fallout fears

The High Court action in which compensation is being claimed for two leukaemia victims whose fathers worked at Sellafield nuclear plant, will not be heard until October 1992. In the meantime, schools within three miles of Sellafield are to be issued with potassium iodide tablets so that hundreds of children can immediately be

SALLY SOMERS



Looking for trouble: some politicians need the "kick hormone" to perform; will John Major become addicted?

How not to overdraw on the stress account

Some people thrive on pressure, others are made ill by it. But we can all exploit it, Victoria McKee reports

Noradrenalin, the hormone released into the bloodstream during times of stress, is a highly addictive substance, says Dr David Lewis, the founder of the Stress Watch charity. Sky divers, racing car drivers and combative politicians crave and even need the "kick hormone", as Dr Lewis calls it, in order to perform to their full potential.

Mrs Thatcher's stirring speeches during the no-confidence debate last week were a prime example of peak performance under extreme stress, and her defiant assertion that she was enjoying herself on what must have been the most stressful day of her political career is an example of the euphoric buzz that "eustress", or creative stress, can bring. She has learnt how to use the primitive "fight or flight" mechanism to maximum advantage.

John Major would do well to follow her example, for those who live by creative stress may also die if they do not know how to channel stress constructively into creativity, Dr Lewis says. He holds seminars for banks and other large companies — for £2,000 a day — in order to help employees learn how to maximise their creative stress potential. Last Saturday he

held his first seminar for the general public — for £25 per person — at the newly opened Flint House centre for healing and learning in Lewes, Sussex.

Among those who attended were a teacher who had just taken on a daunting new comprehensive school class, a garage owner suffering the strains of being his own boss, a management consultant who felt he could not cope adequately with others' stresses until she could control her own, and an (ostensibly) ice-cool financial manager.

Dr Lewis does not preach against stress. Nor does he regard it as an evil to be eradicated from our lives. "I think of stress in engineering terms — as anything that puts strain on the system," he says. "And in engineering, stress is necessary and can hold a structure together."

The essence of his creative stress counselling is to teach individuals how to recognise

"You have only so much stress currency to spend".

fastest. The catch is that the train is powered by alpha waves, which are produced only when in a state of alert relaxation. "The harder they try the worse they do; they can win only by relaxing," he says.

But if he is championing creative stress, why the need for relaxation? Dr Lewis explains his "stress currency" theory. "You have only so much stress currency to spend," he says, "and everything in life has its price. So if you have, say, 100 units of stress to spend a day and you waste 80 having a row with your partner and 30 more fuming in traffic jams, you're going to be in the red by the time you get to work." His relaxation techniques are to be employed only at those times when you do not want to bring stress into creative play, or when you feel you are going

into a state of dry-mouthed, head-swirling panic.

"People may need the tensions of a near deadline to spur them on to their best efforts — and there is nothing wrong with that," Dr Lewis says. "An actress may require a certain level of stage fright to give the performance of her life. If I were to try to make these people generally more relaxed I might make them less good at their jobs. I would only like to help them to be able to relax when they are not working, so they can spend their stress currency to best advantage."

Anasthetists and air traffic controllers have to learn to control their stress levels differently, so that they can remain attentive during long periods when nothing is happening, and are able to respond quickly and efficiently during an emergency. "Sometimes I have to help people to lower their level of arousal, so they don't become bored and lethargic," Dr Lewis says.

Creative stress, Dr Lewis explains, "is about being in control of your stress, and being aware of the small symptoms of unwanted stress so that you can control them before they get out of hand. You can learn to set your arousal level where you want it to achieve peak performance. I work with tennis players, and marksmen and downhill skiers who need to know how to do this, as well as with corporate clients."

Dr Lewis stresses that he is not happy to perform "a mopping-up operation" in companies which put too many stresses on their employees and think, because they call me in, that makes it all right. They have to be prepared to change, too."

Nick Carew Hunt, an

administrator in financial futures in the City who attended Dr Lewis's recent class, is fit and apparently calm. But he claims to be "sometimes seething inside", and is unable to dispel his stress in the explosive manner of his colleagues on the trading floors. Other members of the class said they were there because they were in high-stress situations ranging from adjusting to teenagers leaving home, to feeling frustrated at home with young children.

The stress that comes from worrying about things you cannot change, or from anger at others — or anger turned inwards against yourself — is totally useless, Dr Lewis says. "Learn about your red buttons and don't let others push them and manipulate you," he says. "Negative stress is about feeling out of control. Learn to be proactive rather than reactive."

Dr Lewis's basic kit for achieving creative stress consists of awareness of your peak

stress levels and how to achieve them; anticipation of negatively stressful situations; avoidance of such situations when possible; appraisal — stepping back from a situation to see why it is making you stressful; action — to improve your physical health by, for example, exercise and relaxation; assertiveness — learning to defend your territory without attacking anyone else; altering perception — it is how you perceive an event that is stressful, rather than the event itself; and amnesty — not harbouring grudges against anyone else, or against yourself.

"Keep a stress diary for a little while," he advises, "and note your peak performance days — those days when everything seems to go right. That is when your stress levels are just right. But there are valuable lessons to be learnt from the days when things go wrong."

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Defiant



Reza Pahlavi in the December

TATLER

The courage to show your face

Acne can cause clinical depression in young people, and even lead to suicide.

Yet these days it is entirely treatable

tionally dry skins. In fact, people who don't get acne are statistically the odd ones out. "But the idea that it is a purely teenage complaint is wrong. At our clinic, at least 7 per cent of patients are mature adults. Men and women can get acne up to middle age."

Although more boys than girls suffer, the widespread use of oral contraceptives and other hormone-containing drugs means that the incidence among women of all ages is now increasing.

Acne is caused when the sebaceous glands over-produce oil because of an abnormal response to male-type hormones. But although it cannot exactly be cured, and it cannot yet be prevented, it is now a completely treatable condition, provided treatment is started early enough.

Most dermatologists now advise starting acne treatment as soon as a few spots are noticed. Dr Holden says: "If it is very mild, topical treatments from the chemist will usually clear it up, and in any case, it's worth asking the pharmacist for advice. But nobody should be afraid of

one's 'acne life'. Such long-term drug treatment does have its critics — but adverse side-effects such as mild gastrointestinal problems, or (as with all antibiotics) thrush in women, appear to be slight."

Most doctors advise continuing with creams and lotions, usually those based on benzoyl peroxide, as well as taking the drugs, which work to prevent bacteria from entering the spots and causing scarring. Severely severe cases in men can now be treated effectively with vitamin A (brand name Roaccutane). This treatment is available only on hospital prescription, and is not normally given to women as it can cause deformities in foetuses. Severe female acne is best treated with Diane-3, a hormonal preparation given in combination with the contraceptive pill.

Acne is known to be hereditary. There is little scientific evidence of a connection with diet, hygiene or lifestyle, although some modern drugs can aggravate the problem. Dr Cunliffe has embarked on a research project to try to discover the cause of the condition, and is looking forward to the day when an acne vaccine can be given to those at risk.

There is usually little noticeable improvement for four to six weeks, but by the end of three months, there should be a 40 per cent improvement, if the drugs are taken conscientiously. 80 per cent of the acne will have disappeared by the end of six months. One drawback with drugs is that they have to be taken for the whole

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LIZ HODGKINSON
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Addicts down but not out

The church is pioneering a £2 million project to rescue the destitute from the demon drink. Ruth Gledhill reports

When he was five years old, Dr Leslie Griffiths spent the bitter winter of 1947 wandering the streets of Llanelli with his brother and his mother. His father, an alcoholic who was violent when drunk, had given his family a week's notice to move out of their home.

"People took us in for a week or two. Eventually we found a lean-to with one room and no electricity or water," Dr Griffiths says. The members of a small Methodist chapel in Barry Port, near Llanelli, kept the three fed and clothed. Their kindness planted the seed that persuaded Dr Griffiths to enter the church. Apart from this, he recalls it as a "terrible time".

"Those little old ladies in the chapel brought me into Christianity, not through doctrine or theology but through goodness," Dr Griffiths says. "I was there regularly and many of them are still there. The woman who taught me to read was there."

His personal experience of the dangers of alcoholism is also behind the transformation of a former workhouse into a detoxification centre to provide homeless alcoholics and drug addicts on London's streets with a standard of help and treatment rarely found outside the private sector. In the refurbishment of St Luke's, in Lambeth, the West London Mission Circuit of the Methodist church is pioneering a four-stage recovery programme to take down-and-outs from the park bench to independent living in a home of their own.

The £2 million project, sponsored partly by British Telecom, is due to open next year. Dr Griffiths is its instigator and the superintendent of the West London Mission, known to BBC Radio 4 listeners as a regular contributor to *Thought for the Day*.

St Luke's has been used as a centre to help alcoholics and destitute people for more than 50

years. But many former patients of the dark and gloomy building relapsed. "In terms of people's self-image, it was vital something be done," Dr Griffiths says. He is determined that the new St Luke's will provide the standard of care which, until now, has been available only in private treatment centres.

Although other churches have a reputation for preaching total abstinence, some former churchgoers claim little has changed since the days of the *Band of Hope* and signing the pledge. But, contrary to public perception, it was not always thus. Methodists, although urging temperance, did not allow their buildings to be used for meetings campaigning for teetotalism.

Dr Griffiths stresses that St Luke's will not preach the evils of drink to its clients, but will attempt to educate them to live without it. They will be taught they are "not bad people, but sick people".

He says: "The Methodist teaching on drink has changed a great deal over the past few years. I am the first generation of Methodist ministers who did not have to declare ourselves total abstainers before we presented ourselves to be ministers. I drink wine with meals."

Methodists now are encouraged to choose for themselves whether or not to abstain from alcohol, rather than have abstinence imposed from above.

Dr Griffiths won a place at Llanelli grammar school and took a degree in medieval literature at the University of Wales, in Cardiff. He studied theology at Cambridge and was sent to do missionary and pastoral work in Haiti, where he stayed for ten

years. Five years ago, he was asked to join the West London Mission, with part of his brief being to oversee the transformation of St Luke's, in Weston Street.

"St Luke's was already on the agenda as priority number one. The important thing is that when I came to the West London Mission I felt I had come to do work I had been preparing for since my birth," he says.

Dr Griffiths, who will move on from the mission to become minister at the Golden Green Trinity United Reformed and Methodist church in north London next August, says: "We have a lot more money to find."

"I am very excited that some of the most broken, dispirited people with no sense of their own value, living on London's streets, are going to have access to a top-class service. We are offering a quality service to some pretty hopeless people because we believe in them. We want to give them some hope."

Since it was founded in 1887, the West London Mission has been involved in a combination of preaching the gospel and social work. As superintendent, Dr Griffiths is following in the footsteps of one of Britain's best-known Methodists, Lord Soper, superintendent there from 1936 to 1978. Lord Soper acquired St Luke's, a former 60-bed workhouse, after working with homeless people under Hungerford Bridge.

The West London Mission now based at the Hinde Street Methodist church, spends £1.1 million on social work each year and employs 70 social workers, medical, administrative and ancillary staff, plus six hospital chaplains. About £150,000 comes from its own resources and the rest from trusts, grants and the Church Urban Fund. Self-help groups such as

Gamblers Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Anorexics Aid meet in the basement of the Hinde Street premises.

The mission also runs the Katherine Price Hughes bail remand hostel in Highbury; the Bridge, a hostel for young people at risk, in Clapham, and the West London Day Centre and the Lambeth Walk-in day centres for homeless people. On Wednesdays, the church opens its crypt to the homeless. Grove House in Wandsworth, a follow-on house

for St Luke's provides a post-discharging service for ten men.

St Luke's boasts Charlie Chaplin as its best-known former resident: the comedian lived there as a child with his mother, a domestic worker, after his father deserted them.

Despite appalling conditions, St Luke's went on taking in down-and-outs from London's streets for detoxification until two years ago, housing them in 44 rooms measuring 4ft by 6ft. "It was a filthy, dark den of iniquity," says Mike Abell, a social worker who was persuaded to turn down a job in America to be director of St Luke's and supervise the treatment programme. "You could say it prolonged life or postponed death. A lot of people went out and came back in again." The new St Luke's will have just 30 beds.

St Luke's is aiming to raise more than £1 million before next summer's opening. British Telecom has given £50,000 from its community action fund and Mike Corby Leisure, a fitness company based in the City, is designing the gym.

Mr Abell is incorporating ideas from American and UK alcohol treatment programmes into St Luke's. The treatment of women

will be a priority. Rooms will be double their previous size, with a washbasin and wardrobe, and clients will have use of a sauna, gym and sun roof.

Dr Griffiths regards helping those in need as an "integral part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ". Many people, Christians included, regard the drunks on London's streets as responsible for their own predicament and beyond help. Dr Griffiths stands by the instruction of John Wesley, Methodism's founder, to "go not to those who need you, but those who need you most".



Helping hands: from left, Gilbert Haywood and Terry McCarty, both of the West London Mission, check plans with St Luke's Dr Leslie Griffiths and Mike Abell

Saturday Review

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 25

Shaking up the old town halls

Almost 100 councils are studying a system to put their files on computer for greater efficiency and to provide new services.

Nick Nuttall reports

The faded, Victorian town hall of Sandwell metropolitan borough council is an unlikely testing ground for one of the most significant information technology developments of the decade.

In common with several other local authorities, the council, in the West Midlands, has installed a geographic information system (GIS). It will boost day-to-day operations significantly, cut costs by more efficient management of resources and improve the lives of almost 300,000 community change players by delivering better, as well as new, services.

Surrounded by thousands of bound title deeds, some dating back to the 18th century, and old Ordnance Survey maps, staff in the corporate property department have begun classifying different types of buildings and land-use on electronic, digitised maps supplied by Ordnance Survey.

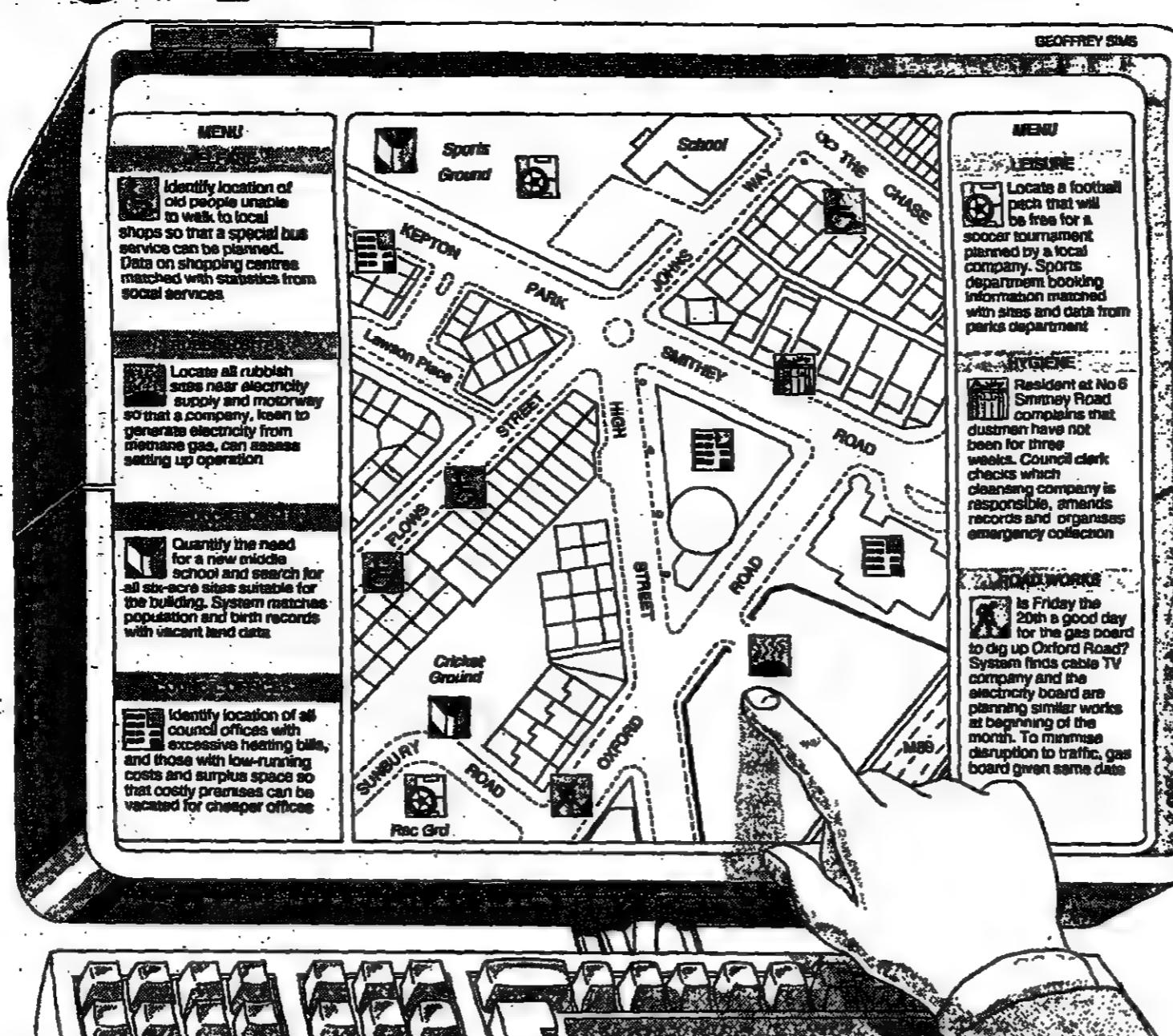
The borough covers 33 square miles centred on West Bromwich, one of Britain's most built-up areas. When the project is finished, the council will have all the land and buildings owned and leased by Sandwell stored on the digitised maps. Computers are used to give each class a symbol, such as a coloured polygon, square or rectangle.

Council staff will have a standardised map of the borough, allowing them to produce quality copies of buildings and land holdings quickly for surveyors, property developers and the public.

Eventually, the thousands of sheets of paper maps, acquired over years of local government reorganisations and covered with smudgy corrections as property has been sold, bought or leased, will be relegated to the vaults.

The greatest benefits of the system come from its ability to "tie" data from items such as title deeds to every geographical location and, eventually, to link disparate data from a variety of sources, including other council departments, such as education and social services.

One of the first tasks for the Sandwell system is to tie all offices, factories and buildings that the



A hand holds a mobile phone displaying a map of a town with various locations marked and labeled. The screen shows four small windows with text and icons related to property management and GIS functions.

council rents out with the expiry dates of the leases. This will allow Peter Manley, the council's property surveyor, to issue rent demands and reassessments on time, so that Sandwell does not lose income by being behind with the paperwork.

In the longer term, the system, which has been supplied by McDonald Douglas Information Systems of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, should allow staff rapid to access data on, say, all the municipal landfill sites in the borough, giving companies which are keen to extract methane gas from municipal tips information on the best locations.

Other possibilities, says David Vining, who is pioneering the system in the council's corporate property department, include

planning the siting of a new school to population and birth records, managing traffic flows and linking the council buildings with their energy bills. Buildings that are running up excessive bills could then be better insulated or changed for more energy-efficient premises.

The ability to zoom in on map features could also allow staff to check rooms in, for example, the town hall, and retrieve details, such as the last date of painting and carpet cleaning and, if a room is vacant, find out why and for how long it has been empty.

According to Andrew Larner,

the secretary of the Association for Geographic Information (AGI), which is based at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in London, nearly 100 authorities are

now studying or piloting GIS schemes after a report by Lord Chorley, three years ago, which called for their use.

In Northern Ireland, all the utilities, councils and government departments have joined forces to create an integrated GIS for the province.

A scheme, called the tradable information initiative, has also been launched by the government, which is studying all the data held by central government departments to see what could be made commercially available for GIS users, Mr Larner says.

Authorities, he says, have realised that to make competitive tendering of services work effectively, an

information management system is needed. GIS makes sense for local authorities because 80 per cent of the information held by them is geographically based, he says.

"One borough has put all their lamp-post maintenance records on the system. When, say, a pensioner telephones to say the lamp outside her house has broken, the operator can tell from her address where the post is and schedule maintenance there and then."

Mr Larner adds that advanced systems can also be used, for example, to plan special bus services, based on a set of criteria such as the number of pensioners in a town who are incapable of walking to local shops. "It is basically turning sets of data into information and acting on it," he says.

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Spot the people, damn uplift

When I was at school there was a tennis professional (he was also the headmaster's secretary) whose performance in the first role always excited my admiration. Playing on the best courts, opposite the school shop from which I was frequently coming out with something to eat, he dealt with the school's best players in a relaxed fashion, sending them scampering about after his carefully placed shots, hardly moving his feet, and with his eyes only half open. Sir Victor Pritchett is his literary equivalent.

Reflecting on the comparison I wonder now if my high opinion of the way in which the pro carried out his task was not due so much to the total freedom of his activities from any sort of moral fervour, as to their obvious skill and economy. All the other adults about the place had their shoulders firmly pressed against the great wheel of character-building; he seemed concerned only to get his pupils to do the thing well.

Pritchett's publishers are celebrating his ninetieth birthday by publishing his *Complete Short Stories*, all 83 of them, in a particularly handsome volume, with reasonable margins and an attractive type. Together with that they have brought out *Lasting Impressions*, 27 critical pieces, none of them much more than six pages in length. The stories cover a whole career, from the late Thirties to the end of the Eighties.

Both as story-teller and as critic, Pritchett coolly abstains from being censorious. His fictional characters are often, indeed very often, weird and they often do bad things, but they are seldom

Anthony Quinton
on the life's work
of our grand old
pro of literary
person-watching

**THE COMPLETE
SHORT STORIES**
By V. S. Pritchett
Chatto and Windus, £25.00

**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**
By V. S. Pritchett
Chatto and Windus, £15.99

seriously evil. There is no clamant system of opinions about the right management of human conduct or the right ordering of human society churning around behind the surface of his narration. His aim is to catch the distinguishing idiosyncrasy of his creations, to pin down what he has described as insight or a "glimpses through".

His rate of fictional production seems to have gone up with the passage of time. Four hundred pages contain the work of the Thirties, Forties and Fifties; twice as much space is needed for the stories of the following three decades. The first of all, "Sense of Humour", is very much of its epoch, of John Lehmann's *New Writing* and *Lilliput*. His sentences, usually short, are here at their most staccato. Mr Humphrey, a commercial traveller and the son of an undertaker, transfers the affections of a hotel recep-

tionist from a primordial garage-hand to himself, with sad consequences. The dialogue is already Pritchettian:

She had her head screwed on all right. She said: "Some girls have no pride once the lights go down." Every time I went to that town I took a box of something. Samples' mostly, they didn't cost me anything. "Don't thank me," I said. "Thank the firm."

Even more characteristic is Mr Humphrey's way of winning people over in small towns by being seen at the Presbyterian church in the morning and at the Methodist chapel in the evening. The extremes of Protestantism figure largely in Pritchett's work, in his fine novel *My Betwixt* and one of his best and best-known stories, "The Saint", about the feet of clay of Mr Timbersake of the Church of the Last Purification, Toronto, Canada.

As a writer of fiction Pritchett serves something like the same purpose for England as Simenon does for France. Both are satisfied to look, see and record. There are, of course, jokes in Pritchett, violence, brothels and corrupt members of the Chambre des Députés in Simenon, as might be expected from their respective nationalities. But both really write about the society they live in, and do not simply draw on it for props with which to surround versions of themselves and their intricates.

That observational stance, without moralising or ideological designs on the reader, is taken throughout his critical writing. "My purpose," he says in the



Sir Victor Pritchett, 90 on December 16, a very English tone of voice, in its dry observation, and avoidance of enthusiasm and ballyhoo

typically short preface to *Lasting Impressions*, "has always been to explore the writers and their intentions." He sets about his work in this field with blithe indifference to the brooding mountains of academic claptrap that surround him. His criticism is biographical and, in a footnoted, historical. As with the characters of his stories he seeks the distinguishing uniqueness of his subjects, to bring it out by way of unobtrusive comparisons and

differentiations. He seldom condemns a writer, nor doubt on the ground that there is no point in writing about someone you do not think is any good. He probably recognises that garbage disposal is necessary work, but simply does not choose to follow it himself.

In his collection *The Tale Bearers* there is an assault on Rider Haggard ("Bad grammar and sloshed and even vulgar writing... He dare not go in for more than pasteboard character"),

leader-types who are supposed to be the schoolboy's natural heroes.

The child was father of the man. In that passage both Pritchett's exploratory passion and his distaste for uplift are clearly expressed. It is wonderful to think for how long these fine properties were displayed, week after week, in that carnival of illusion and exhortation, *The New Statesman and Nation*.

Oh, go on, biff the president again

US PRESIDENT going gaga (what's new!), vice-president unacceptable; secret watchdog committee of mandarins (the same one that got rid of Roosevelt) hires *Jacuzzis*-like assassin to remove both men, in the White House, during the president's birthday celebrations, thus provoking in the reader a certain sense of déjà vu. FBI man and discredited Soviet military intelligence officer form uneasy post-glassnost alliance to try to unravel a complicated net of East-West intrigue, dating back several decades. *White Lies* is all right on uncovering covered traces, and fair on speculation; but too much coincidence results in overenthusiastic dovelots at the expense of credibility. Although told with care and efficiency, the shall-we-

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

WHITE LIES
By Christopher Hyde
Simon & Schuster, £13.95

assassinate-the-president plot and its steely-eyed executioner have, for all the careful toying up here, been done to death. *Beta (plus?)*.

The real battles of Los Angeles, as shown by Jonathan Kellerman's *Time Bomb* (*Macmillan*, £13.95), are the suburban ones of bussing, mixed education policies, and the gradual erosion of hubris inviolable. Wasp communities, Kellerman's caring shrub here, is called in to counsel children after a playground shooting, in which the would-be assassin is shot dead. When asked to provide a psychological profile of the assassin, shrunk embarks on a laborious, garrulous investigation that essentially takes the form of a series of shrunk-like interviews across one table or another. Information, laboriously extracted, adds up to a dossier on Californian racism, with the emphasis on neo-Nazis: weird, but not weird enough over a distance of 494 pages. Pacing is

hence the mission of Helga and her "angels" to provide a rehabilitation programme for sexual frustration among the political fraternity. But who controls Helga? Fearless tabloid hack Gilbert Groot willingly penetrates the defences in search of his scoop, to predictable effect. *Beta minus*.

Something perverted stirs under the placid American suburban surface: a baby-faced uncovers a middle-class porno ring in *Secret Strangers*, by Thomas Tessier (*Macdonald*, £12.95) and her thoughts turn to blackmail. After a nasty start, things get guessable, then stuck in an old Ross Macdonald groove, with the sins of the father falling like a ton of bricks on the daughter. Brisk, readable. *Beta (plus?)*.

In *The Naked Angels*, by Anthony Grey (*Macmillan*, £13.95), the US president is kidnapped by Russian sex-bomb Helga, whose demand for the establishment of a Moscow Playboy Club leads to an uneasy truce, which purports to tell the real story behind the Cold War thaw. Ageing male politicians seek violent solutions to international problems, in sublimation of their own vanished virility. *Beta (plus?)*.

Investigative journo after that big scoop goes undercover, to expose a modern Fagin operating an international black market from Istanbul, his big op, one that has the British government caught in many double-dealings that make Ollie North look like a novice. Scenes and sub-plots function more efficiently than surface narrative in *Robin Lake's Fat Man's Shadow* (*Viking*, £13.95), which suggests first hand experience of low-life Turkish subcultures. *Beta (plus?)*.

Class-age rebel

Anne Barnes

THE FORGERIES OF JEALOUSY
By Virginia Budd
Plaistock, £12.95

THE REMOVAL MEN
By David Phillips
Duckworth, £12.95

THE STORY OF THE LAST THOUGHT
By Edgar Hilsenroth
Scribner, £14.95

manoeuvres, as if they are taking part in an 18th century farce, although at other times the author seems to be coolly satirising the sort of insanity that lurks beneath the surface of mindless jetsetters and their professional advisers. Readers who are not too bothered by the way a plot hangs together will find Phillips urbane and witty, within the rather cynical limitations he has set himself.

A wider canvas is laid out in *The Story of the Last Thought*, by Edgar Hilsenroth's way of recounting history is simpler. He is mainly concerned to depict the massacre of Armenians by the Turks in 1915, but in order to put this terrible story of genocide into context, he goes far back into Armenian history and folklore, and also moves forward to relate the events of the holocaust and the second world war to those of 1915.

The story is told through the persons of Thovma, and is based on the Armenian idea that a man's last thought, when he is dying, can fly anywhere. Thovma's thought goes back to his birth, to the life of his father, who was a resistance fighter, and to his mother, who gave birth to him while being driven on a forced march by her Turkish captors. From that point Thovma's mind flutters about, bringing rumour with fantasy, myth with fact, and building up, through this series of stories and conversations, a complex picture of the horrors of the century.

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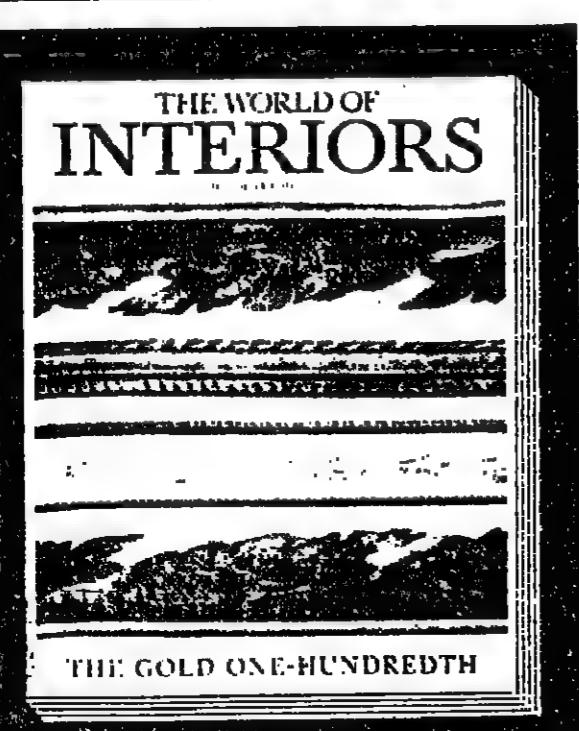
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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Direct appeal to emotions

David Robinson on *Come See the Paradise*, *The Comfort of Strangers*, *The Vampire's Kiss*, *Love Hurts*, *Dr M.* and *The Sheltering Sky*

Alan Parker is an eminently likeable, waywardly gifted talent; and if he never makes a wholly satisfactory film it is generally because his enthusiasm and his ambition outrun him. Nor does he court popularity. In *Come See the Paradise* (15, Odeon Haymarket) he has tackled the sensitive subject of the internment and virtual dispossession of thousands of Japanese Americans in the mood of racist panic that followed Pearl Harbor.

Parker is the first director to attempt the subject, and it would be unreasonable to expect his to be the definitive statement. He has weakened the impact by cramming too much into his film: as well as the interment story, the long script embraces inter-racial love and scenes from 1930s American labour wars.

The winning Dennis Quaid plays the high-principled hero who elopes with a Japanese beauty despite her father's racial objections, and laws which prohibit intermarriage. As a G.I. he goes absent without leave to visit his wife and child in their wretched internment, which is in the process of irresistibly destroying traditional family ties.

The only disappointing performance among the largely Japanese cast is the doll-like Tamlyn Tomita as the wife. Parker is a persuasive story-teller, unsentimental and unsparing in his assault on the emotions. The heart-tugging of Randy Edelman's musical score here is excessive, though.

As in *The Sheltering Sky* (reviewed below), the young couple in Paul Schrader's *The Comfort of Strangers* (18, Curzon Mayfair), are trying the effects of an exotic setting to rekindle love that has gone cold. If they had seen Nicolas Cage's *Don't Look Now*, of course, Rupert Everett and Miranda Richardson would have known better than to choose Venice.

They are lured to the palazzo of a sadistic, dubious aristocrat (Christopher Walken), who has been obsessively photographing Everett. They fail to take warning from their first night's resident: Walken's entertainment includes punching Everett in the stomach and spiriting their clothes off to the wash — which at least gives them the chance for decorative undress. Without revealing more, it may be said that things turn out

much worse on the second night. Adapted for the screen by Harold Pinter, Ian McEwan's psychological horror-mystery is disagreeable and pointless. Pinter is most comfortable in the earlier scenes, with the edgy dialogue of the couple trying to remake their relationship. Later he is uneasy with the more extravagant characters of the warped Walken and his crushed, compliant wife (Helen Mirren). One central problem is that the story revolves around other people's obsession with the radiant beauty of Rupert Everett, a fantasy that would have been more credible several years ago.

The Big Picture (15, Cammions Tottenham Court Road, Fulham Road) was produced while David Puttnam was production head of Columbia Pictures. A sharp satire on the facts and follies of Hollywood, it was perhaps too near the truth to be welcomed there.

Kevin Bacon plays a young hopeful, head-hunted from film school. The dream is brief. He sees his cherished script dismembered by cannibalistic production conferences, and finds himself caught up in a conventional movie-world cycle, from favour of this week to next week's scrap heap.

Christopher Guest, the writer and director, sharpened his teeth on *This is Spinal Tap* and the musical television show *Saturday Night Live*. The portrait-caricatures are drawn from life. J.T. Walsh as a steely cross studio head, Teri Hatcher as a starlet lavishing affection wherever there is a job prospect, Martin Short in a marvellously funny performance as a cocaine-sized agent. Bacon and his friends in the lower depths of the film capital are touching, and part of the fun of this witty picture is spotting guest appearances, including John Goodman, Elliott Gould and Roddy McDowall.

Joe Minion saw the dream of *The Big Picture* come true. He was still a student when his script for *After Hours* was filmed by Martin Scorsese. *Vampire's Kiss* (18, Cammions Pantone Street, Oxford Street) confirms his talent, and his distinctive, darkly comic tone. The film is a psychological horror story about a young literary agent (Nicolas Cage), whose obsessive erotic fantasies of vampirism gradually drive him mad. The



Dennis Quaid, Tamlyn Tomita (right) and Caroline Jenko King in *Come See the Paradise*

equivocal tone of Minion's fantasies is demanding. The British first-time director, Robert Bierman, fails to maintain the tricky balance between horror and comedy, and Nicolas Cage's performance is loud and out of control.

Through its lengthy dialogue confusions sometimes look as if they were really intended for the stage. Ron Nyswaner's script for *Love Hurts* (15, Cammions Tottenham Court Road, Pantone Street) beautifully captures the difficulties and the compensations of family life. No less accurately, Bud Yorkin's direction evokes the atmosphere of a little Midwestern town and a house bursting at the seams with guests assembled for the wedding rituals.

Jeff Daniels, as the son of the house, finds himself in uncomfortable proximity with his ex-wife. "I don't hate you because we're divorced," she says, "I hate you because we were married." They are not the only ones in trouble, but the message of this gentle, serious little comedy is that human relationships somehow survive, tickety as most of them are.

Dr M. (18, Cammions Shaftesbury Avenue, Chiswick) represents a major lapse in Claude Chabrol's career: the first time, even in his least successful films, he has not even been entertaining. Chabrol's master-criminal — a dubious tribute to Fritz Lang's Dr Mabuse, fruitfully overplayed by Alan Bates — uses electronic media to inspire the populace of a still-divided Berlin to self-destruction. Helpless, beautiful Jennifer Beale is exploited as his angel of death. The story stays at a virtual standstill throughout two hours.

otherwise belief would be strained. In Bertolucci's method we are more conscious of the unreality, even romantic fantasy, when Kit is carried off by tribesmen. Almost embarrassed, it seems, to follow the incidents of Bowles' narrative, Bertolucci allows this most important part of the film to become elusive, unconvincing.

The late Jill Bennett makes a spiky last appearance as Mrs Spike, the benna's borgia, though Timothy Spall is, physically at least, odd casting for her weedy and incestuous young son. Bowles himself, an octogenarian pachyderm, makes occasional visits as a bar-room Chorus, adding not much.

DAVID ROBINSON

Bertolucci and Mark Peploe is superficially faithful to the structure and content of Bowles's novel. Unlike most screen adaptations, however, it is actually less concrete than the original. While Bowles dissects his characters' sentiments and reactions with clinical detachment, he places them very precisely in a world of vivid detail. The reader is made hypersensitive to the colour, sounds, smells, patterns and objects that surround them, the expressions and gestures of the people they meet.

There is a hazard, though, in this change. Because Bowles deals in concrete, undeniably detail, he is able to carry us into areas where

upon his main characters and their sentiments, relying upon the (certainly remarkable) skills and sensitivity of his actors, John Malkovich and Debra Winger. Vittorio Storaro is a photographer whose every shot it is a privilege to watch. He, too, is concerned less with the specifics of settings and action than with establishing mood: close-ups, like paintings and as expressive; summing landscapes, with skies that more often menace than shelter.

Bertolucci concentrates more exclusively and more internally

on the British, on behalf of the old French settlers. In order to maintain any semblance of control, the British had to enlist the aid of the Japanese they had recently disbanded, to patrol the streets, since they were the only organised or disciplined military unit in the area.

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Unsurprisingly, the result was smarthy, chaotic and a victory for Ho Chi Minh. The British and French were soon happy enough to leave him to his own territorial imperatives until, of course, his troops, whom the Americans had cherished and trained, became their most lethal post-war enemies. Charles Wheeler's report was characteristically cool, intelligent, and deeply bemused by the quirks of rapidly-shifting post-war political alliances.

Back in contemporary Greenwich Village, there must be some central casting agency from which insane interviewees are sent out to address the camera on the subject of recently defected artists from the Andy Warhol school of media shock. Last night's subject for Channel 4's *Without Walls* was Jean-Michel Basquiat, an anonymous teenager in 1980 who was, by 1988, dead from a highly expensive drug habit, leaving behind some highly primitive, not to say childlike, collage and cartoon assemblies which are currently selling around Manhattan at \$500,000 (£254,000) a time.

The son of a middle-class accountant, Basquiat liked to pretend he was a starving specimen locked in a cellar until he produced the requisite number of masterpieces. His friends, in what they apparently thought of as loving testimony to his wit and intelligence, solemnly told the camera that he would spit at women while making love and that there was a "marvelous passion" about the way he ordered food in restaurants.

What was seen of Basquiat's work suggested a child let loose in a graffiti workshop: what was seen of his friends made Andy Warhol look like Kenneth Clark, and what was heard of Basquiat himself was seldom less than ridiculous in a Pythonesque fashion.

"Those teeth you have drawn," an interviewer asked of Basquiat, "what are they?" "They are teeth," replied Basquiat with all the magnificent simplicity of the truly great primitive artist confronted by a hostile critic. After an hour of this kind of documentary, anybody could have written the script.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Who would have imagined *The Sheltering Sky* (18, Odeon Leicester Square) as a cherished project of Robert Aldrich, best known for *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* and *The Dirty Dozen*? For years he clung jealously to the rights. Now, long after his death, his son William Aldrich has conceded them to Bernardo Bertolucci, and become executive producer of the film.

Bowles's first novel, published in 1949, was set in 1947 in a North Africa still not recovered from the upheavals of war. A young American couple, Port and Kit, arrive in North Africa, proud to be travellers — people with the perception to compare other civilisations with their own — and not mere tourists.

TELEVISION

More menacing than sheltering

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Researcher as modern guru

THEATRE
No One Sees The Video
Royal Court
Theatre Upstairs

LIKE Dante's sad adulterers whirling past on the wind, playwright Martin Crimp's characters whisk by in their own little hells, as sealed, pre-packaged and self-sufficient as the frozen pizza that Elizabeth has to open with her teeth. Elizabeth is *nel mezzo del camin di nostra vita*, disorientated by a failed marriage and lost in a dark wood of humiliation and malevolence.

The unlikely Virgil who illuminates and defines her underworld is Colin, a market researcher. Under his interview manner – part psychiatrist, part father-confessor, part prosecutor – Elizabeth blossoms from harassed housewife picked off the street at random into a ruthless manipulator of opinion (or so she and the writer would have it); a dedicated prober of public opinion on female sanitary equipment or hot, milky drinks.

The idea of market research as the means to reveal spiritual poverty is logical. Today the researcher has succeeded the poet in exploring the human psyche, defining its boundaries and plumbing its shallows. If Crimp's play depicts Elizabeth's zestful welcome of corrupted values, it also shows Colin aware of the emptiness in which they work. "Did I invent the void?" he roars angrily. Like Dante's lost souls, he and Elizabeth pass at emotional cross-purposes, after an initial attraction; he to the barren lethargy of a stale marriage, she to casual pick-ups in provincial hotels and tentative advances to her hostile teenage daughter.

JAZZ
Dave Brubeck/LSO
Barbican

DAVE Brubeck celebrates his seventieth birthday next month, which must seem startling to those who whined away their youth to the sound of "Take Five".

His best work has stood the test of time. The dispute about whether or not he could really swing, or whether Paul Desmond ever received enough credit for his contribution, now have the

All of which has some beautifully funny moments, aided by Lindsay Posner's direction and an unerringly observant cast. The play opens with short television scenes with the air of newsreel sketches to them: Adie Allen's brightly vacuous researcher buttonholing Celia Imrie's distraught Elizabeth with the emasculated chumpness of an air hostess. "Do you ever use frozen pizzas?" is a disconcerting opening gambit.

Two male beer-drinkers then bandy the phrases that have become the equivalent of warning or compliant grunts from wild animals forgetting hostilities to share the same drinking hole ("it's cultural... it's free choice... homosexuals and muslims? To me they're a mental illness").

The carefully plotted writing, with each scene laying clues to the further development of each character, pinpoints Elizabeth's fall: when she uses marketing jargon to her daughter at tea-time. "You have never said snack before," the girl says, puzzled, senting her new role as a social scientist.

Ultimately it is too schematic. Elizabeth is too neatly transformed into all she mistrusted at the beginning of the play, but the performances are faultless. Simon Vincenzi's stark set – charcoal executive carpet, a curved bow wall receding behind a free-standing screen – provides a clean, sharp background for Imrie's grief (real tears) to crystallise into relentless ambition, and for the wonderful Allen to beam, gawp or sneer.

The teenage Jo is beautifully caught by Euan McColl, especially when she flirts with her mother's friend: giggling, fidgety, nervous, mock-sophisticated, self-consciously serious. Stephen Tompkinson is touching as the young man Elizabeth picks up to a



Celia Imrie and Stephen Tompkinson in *No One Sees The Video*

ring of ancient theological debates.

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6.00 Ceefax
10.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laura Mayer
8.50 Daytime UK, Alan Titchmarsh and Judy Spiers in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester link the morning's programmes
9.00 News, regional news and weather
9.05 Brainwave, Andy Craig with another round of the leisure-based quiz 9.25 Dish of the Day, Cooking advice from Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today, Adrian Mills and Deb Jones talk to three mothers-to-be
10.00 News, regional news and weather
10.05 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays (r) 10.25 Barnaby, Animated adventures of a dog 10.35 People Today, Kaffe Fassett looks at arts and crafts
11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 Kirby, Robert Kirby-Silk and his studio audience discuss another topical debate 11.45 Before Nine, The winner of today's Brainwave quiz is revealed and viewers' calls go on air
12.00 News, regional news and weather
12.15 After Noon, Fight the fib with Rosemary Conley's diet and fitness club phone-in 12.20 Scene Today, Live entertainment from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton, Weather
1.30 Neighbours, Suburban Australian soap (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold, Henry Kelly hosts the European general knowledge game
2.15 Bookers, Cup semi-final action in the Standard UK Challenge from the Guild Hall, Preston, introduced by David Vine. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Kemehm and Clive

Everton with summaries from John Spencer and Ray Edwards
3.50 The Brolyts, Animated adventures of a young boy narrated by David Shaw Parker 4.05 Clockwise, Denen Day presides over the chaotic quiz game 4.20 Fantastic Max, Cartoon series about a bonnie baby

Nottingham's sheriff: Tony Robinson (4.35pm)

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster, Yesterday's parliamentary proceedings
9.00 Daytime on Two includes, at 9.15, Glyn Jackson talking to women who are self-employed 9.45 France and the French 10.15 Concluding an exploration of the Christian faith 11.00 Earthquake, children meet at a summer camp in Russia 11.20 How the weather is forecast 12.05 Migration from rural to urban Brazil 12.25 A summary of the planet's environmental hazards 1.20 PC Pinkevian 1.25 Pinkevian Sam 1.40 A new musical version of the story of Cinderella
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 1.15 The Natural World: Cockatoos at Three Springs. Considering the future of Australia's cockatoo population (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.30 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword, Word game
4.30 Behind the Headlines, MPs Teresa Gorman and Diana Abbott debate whether there should be a new government for London
5.00 Pay Shower, Dennis Taylor's teach-in series (r)
5.30 Clean State, Education magazine with Jackie Spreckley, Should Muslims be taught in separate schools?
8.00 Film: Road to Morocco (1942, b/w). The third in the 'Road' series has Bing Crosby and Bob Hope as a couple of shipwrecked stowaways, Dorothy Lamour as a Moroccan princess, and a talking camel. Plus a Harry Anthony Quinn. Directed by David Butler

30

UK and Syria compromise to restore diplomatic ties

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday renewed diplomatic relations with Damascus after a compromise which raised hopes that British hostages in Lebanon may be freed but fell short of the government's previous demands on terrorism.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said Syria had confirmed that it rejected international terrorism and had said it would continue strenuous efforts to obtain the release of the hostages.

The Foreign Office described the pledge as satisfactory, but Greville Janner (L, Leicester West), said: "It is a complete cynical climb down. It is quite extraordinary to renew relations without Syria having complied

with the two essentials which the government said were preconditions for relations. Syria has not denounced terrorism and they have done nothing about the man who is said to have been responsible for the Hindawi affair."

The Foreign Office said relations would not have been renewed if it had not been satisfied with the assurances. But it did not disclose details.

Whitehall sources have said in the past that Britain wanted Syrian intelligence officers, said to have plotted the attempt by Nezar Hindawi to bomb an El Al airliner in 1986, to be removed from key positions. But yesterday the sources said this had never been a condition for restoring links.

Damascus had given assurances before but Margaret Thatcher was not satisfied. Mr Hurd tried to persuade her that a renewal would be in Britain's interests and she is thought to have begun to accept his arguments before the Tory leadership contest.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said: "We regard it as a logical step. We welcome the Syrian commitment rejecting terrorism and we hope that this will not be a simple form of words but will include action by Syria on terrorism, and we hope that this will give new possibilities of freeing the hostages in Lebanon."

Paul Wilkinson, professor of international relations at Aberdeen university, said: "There is every reason to be concerned about the Syrian track record. There is still a question mark about their relations with Ahmed Jibril (of the PFLP-GC group)."

Mr Hurd told the Commons:

"We have received from the Syrian Government assurances that Syria will continue its strenuous efforts to obtain the release of

Western, including British, hostages in the Lebanon and confirmation that Syria rejects acts of international terrorism and will take action against the perpetrators of such acts which are supported by convincing evidence. We have also had a confidential account of the Syrian position on the Hindawi affair. It has not been entirely easy, but I am glad that it has proved possible to overcome the differences between the UK and Syria."

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials expressed disappointment and said that President Assad of Syria was "as bloody and as brutal a dictator as Saddam Hussein".

Jail visit: Iran yesterday allowed a British diplomat to see Roger Cooper, the businessman held in Tehran, for the first time since the British embassy reopened a month ago. He was reported to be in good health.

Benn talks, page 12

Fish ban pact with Argentina

By ANDREW MC EWEN

BRITAIN and Argentina last night agreed to ban fishing in a large area of the South Atlantic around the Falkland Islands where big international fleets have been operating.

The ban will remove a serious threat to the prosperity of the islands, which have become wealthy following Britain's declaration of a 150-mile fishing limit in 1986. The effect is to extend the limit to 200 miles to the north, east and south of the islands, but the waters affected will be regarded as an area of Anglo-Argentine co-operation. The ban will anger Japanese, Taiwanese and South Korean fishermen, who have had up to 200 vessels working in the area.

The agreement avoids the harm to relations which a unilateral declaration by Britain of a 200-mile limit would have caused. The islanders have been demanding such a limit following a drop in income caused by over-fishing just outside the 150-mile limit.

It was seen last night as the most important move since Britain and Argentina renewed diplomatic relations in February. The fishing dispute had put the new relationship under strain, but the agreement appears to resolve all differences. London and Buenos Aires are likely to see it as a joint diplomatic triumph.

They also agreed to establish a South Atlantic Fisheries Commission to exchange information and make recommendations on conservation. Both stand to benefit, but fishing is much more important to the Falklands than to Argentina.



Home, sweet home: Margaret and Denis Thatcher pose yesterday outside their new front door

New neighbours from No 10

By NICHOLAS WATT

HARDENED journalists gave way to the odd flicker of emotion yesterday when Denis and Margaret swept into their purpose-built, bomb-proof house on a newly-built mock Georgian close in Dulwich.

Next to the Texas Homecare garden statue, the couple posed on the porch after faithful police guards had driven them from lunch at the Savoy. No 11 to the quiet close was not expecting its owners quite so quickly. The garage door was coated in dust and the windows needed a clean.

The electronic entrance gates to the close open for visitors only when they have been inspected over a video entry phone system. Should any unwelcomed guests edge up too close to the Thatchers' house they will quickly be ejected by members of the police's dip-

lomatic protection group and Special Branch who guard high-ranking politicians.

Some police, however, have described guarding the Thatchers as a nightmare. The house is on the edge of the close and a thin wooden fence is all that separates it from a large open playing field which leads to a wood.

A magnum of champagne and flowers were sent yesterday by well-wishers from Dulwich to greet the Thatchers. Ivor Spencer, president of The Guild of Professional Toastmasters, said he was giving the champagne to celebrate Mrs Thatcher's future career.

"She will be wanted all round the world as a statesman everyone will want to hear," he said. Mrs Thatcher won the guild's after-dinner speaker award last year and Mr Spencer organised Mark Thatcher's wedding.

Two local horse riders turned up in their jodhpurs with a card and ten red roses to welcome Dulwich's new resident. Chris Roberts and Dorothy Amara invited Mrs Thatcher to come riding with them - side-saddle that is - and said she would also be very welcome at the local pub, The Crown and Greyhound.

Simon Bott, aged 17, was the lone anti-Thatcher voice among a group of sixth-formers from Dulwich College. He said that her resignation would make no difference to the Tories, as Labour would win the next election.

A school mate, Matt Wilson, aged 17, shouted out that Simon would be "subpoenaed" for his pro-Labour utterance.

Nini Olajide, aged 10, from Dulwich's Rosemead Prep School

forecast that she would be in No 10 by the age of 37. She hoped that Mrs Thatcher would become Prime Minister again.

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Political sketch

Being led astray in charming style

ON THE stairs at the Savoy, yesterday, I found myself alongside an old friend on the Tory backbenches.

"Why," I asked "did you vote for Douglas Hurd as party leader? You do not agree with him on Europe; you intensely dislike the foreign office and you advocate a rigid monetarism which none have ever associated with Mr Hurd."

"Douglas's views on almost every subject are anathema to me."

"Then why," I persisted, "did you vote for him?"

My friend paused, momentarily, on the stair. "It is plain," he said "that a Tory leader's task is to lead Tories astray. But if I am to be led astray, I want it to be done stylishly. Of the candidates on offer, I took the view that Douglas would betray us with more intelligence and charm than the others."

We continued our walk together, for we were going to the Spectator "parliamentarian of the year" luncheon. The recipient of the award was Mr Hurd. He gave one of the best speeches of its kind I have heard: stylish, intelligent, charming. With a hint of self-deprecation he beguiled us, teasing his enemies in an always gentlemanly way; and taking us just a little - never too far - into his confidence.

If I had doubted his suitability for the accolade (which I had not), his speech alone would have allayed doubt. One departed, after a good meal, some excellent wine and a fine whisky digestif, filled with a warm glow of approval for parliament in general, and this polished parliamentarian in particular.

Mr Hurd had left slightly ahead of us to field foreign office questions. I caught up, later, at the Commons, and watched from the press gallery as he delivered a statement on the Gulf. Modestly, the foreign secretary did not even assume that he was to keep his job, though he and we all knew that was certain. "I shall be going to New York to discuss these matters," was his answer to one enquiry, "other things being equal," he smiled.

Then why," I asked, "did you vote for him?"

"Hear, hear..." But, hold on: was that quite fair to Mr Dalyell? Tam's case is not, after all, that no aggressor should be resisted but that it is worth doing the sums before deciding to pick a vast oilfield as the place on which to fight. Perhaps he deserved a slightly less generalist argument in reply?

From Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) on his own backbenches, he listened to the argument that Italy, Germany and France should contribute more, because their dependence on Arab oil was greater. The foreign secretary found this line of argument coarse.

"If we'd been concerned with oil," he said, smirking but ever so slightly affronted, "we'd have settled a long time ago."

He explained that an early deal with Iraq would have been the best way of securing supplies.

The Tory side liked that. They understood already that we were in this for principle, not oil; but they had not realised (until Mr Hurd put it as he had) that we were quite so noble as to be foregoing oil in the cause of valuing little Kuwait.

"Hear, hear..." But, hold on: was this argument entirely honest? Is it not also about Kuwait and existing oil supplies? Is it not also about Saudi Arabia, and future oil supplies? And the danger, perhaps, that a stranglehold on these might enable Iraq to ransom the West? Mr Hurd spoke of principle, but, when Iraq was gassing Kurds, was he much exercised? Ah, perhaps he was not foreign secretary at the time.

I watched Mr Hurd: deft, nimble, assured, "safe hands", "bottom", gravitas, decent, courteous...

But was he right? And did he believe all this? And, if he didn't, how would you know?

gawked about the ecological disaster threatened by war in the Gulf but Mr Hurd's reply was most persuasive: if we were to funk our duty to resist aggression when the aggressor showed the capability to do great harm even a Hitler would have gone unchallenged.

"Hear, hear..." But, hold on: was that quite fair to Mr Dalyell? Tam's case is not, after all, that no aggressor should be resisted but that it is worth doing the sums before deciding to pick a vast oilfield as the place on which to fight. Perhaps he deserved a slightly less generalist argument in reply?

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MATTHEW PARRIS

Nobel trip cancelled

From MARY DEEVSEY IN MOSCOW

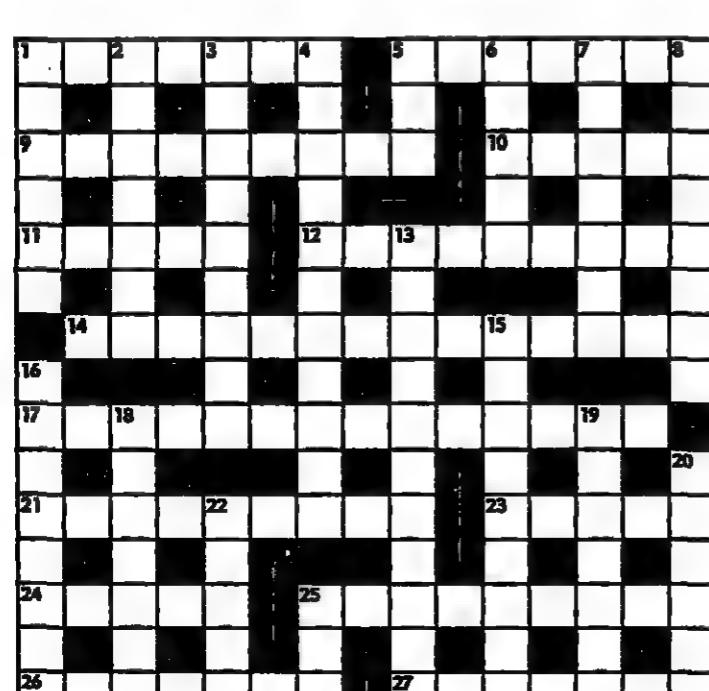
PRESIDENT Gorbachev will not be travelling to Oslo next month to collect his Nobel peace prize because of the critical situation in the Soviet Union, his office announced yesterday.

The Soviet leader had asked for the ceremony to be postponed until next May. Yesterday the five-member Norwegian Nobel committee said cancellation was impossible. They hoped, however, that Mr Gorbachev could visit Norway in May to deliver the traditional Nobel lecture.

Mr Gorbachev may appoint a

proxy to collect the prize on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite and founder of the award. On that day the Soviet leader plans to address a full meeting of the Soviet communist party's Central Committee, according to his spokesman. There is speculation that he will use that meeting to resign his party leadership in order to concentrate on the state presidency.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,464



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

SAKKOS
a. A person's sack
b. An Eastern sabb
c. A red-figure oil jar

EPICIC

a. Ovating
b. To do with horses
c. To do with hips

GOBO

a. An enemy of Hobbits
b. A lens projector
c. A blind beggar

OLYCOKE

a. A doughnut
b. A termagant
c. The cuperative

Answers on page 28, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Lewis & SE traffic, roadworks

C, London (within N & S Circ), 731 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T, 733 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T-M25 734 M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only 735

National traffic and roadworks

C, London (within N & S Circ), 731 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T, 733 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T-M25 734 M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only 735

Local traffic, roadworks

C, London (within N & S Circ), 731 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T, 733 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T-M25 734 M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only 735

Motorway traffic, roadworks

C, London (within N & S Circ), 731 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T, 733 M-ways/roads M1-Denford T-M25 734 M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only 735

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Complete crossword, page 21

WEATHER

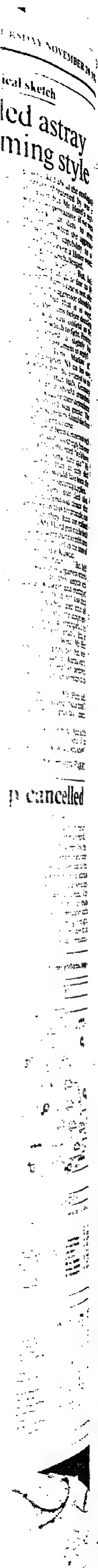
much of the country, with only light winds. The South-East may start cloudy with light rain. All areas will become dry with long sunny periods. The wind will remain light. It will not be particularly warm anywhere and temperatures will be slightly below normal for the end of November. Outlook: little change, with fog and frost at night, but dry and bright by day.

ABROAD

MORNING: In Thailand: moderate rain in the south; scattered showers in the north. In Japan: scattered showers in the south; clear skies in the north. In Australia: scattered showers in the south; clear skies in the north. In New Zealand: scattered showers in the south; clear skies in the north. In South Africa: scattered showers in the west; clear skies in the east. In South America: scattered showers in the west; clear skies in the east. In Central America: scattered showers in the west; clear skies in the east. In Mexico: scattered showers in the west; clear skies in the east. In Canada: scattered showers in the west; clear skies in the east. In USA: scattered showers in the west; clear skies in the east.

AROUND BRITAIN

SUN: Sun: 75% in Scotland; 70% in Northern Ireland; 65% in Wales; 60% in England. Rain: 25% in Scotland; 30% in Northern Ireland; 35% in Wales; 40% in England. Wind: 10% in Scotland; 15% in Northern Ireland; 20% in Wales; 25% in England. Fog: 10% in Scotland; 15% in Northern Ireland; 20% in Wales; 25% in England. Cloud: 50% in Scotland; 55% in Northern Ireland; 60% in Wales; 65% in England. Moderate: 10% in Scotland; 15% in Northern Ireland; 20% in Wales; 25% in England. Calm:



- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 31-38
- LAW 40
- SPORT 40-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BUSINESS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29 1990

Canary £500m refinance in place

OLYMPIA & York has completed its £500 million refinancing package for the Canary Wharf project being built at London's Docklands (Matthew Bond writes).

Michael Dennis, head of O&Y's London operation, confirmed that interim refinancing was in place. A syndicate of ten banks, six from Europe and four from North America, is involved.

O&Y is believed to have abandoned plans to participate in a large office development at Tokyo Bay.

Brent Walker shares bounce

Shares in Brent Walker Group, the leisure and property company, fell 15p to 76p before recovering to end 1p higher at 92p as the group tried to find the £20 million shortfall on its £103 million convertible bond issue. Brent Walker must find a minimum of £16 million by midnight tomorrow or find itself in default of its bank financing arrangements.

Guinness affair

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, will not seek a court order under section 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act in respect of Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parnes and Sir Jack Lyons, the four businessmen convicted in the Guinness affair.

Tempus, page 33

Hambros warns

Hambros, the merchant banking group, has warned shareholders that profits from its investment operations are unlikely to continue at recent high levels. In the half year to end-September they contributed £11.5 million to group pre-tax profits, 19 per cent higher at £42.5 million. Fully diluted earnings per share from 14.7p (14.1p) a share. The interim payout rose 11 per cent to 4p. Tempus, page 33

Water payout

North West Water will pay an interim dividend of 6p for the six months to end-September, its first half-time payment since last year's privatisation, and a rise in pre-tax profits to £15 million (£91 million). Tempus, page 33

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9730 (-0.0015)
German mark
2.9280 (+0.0087)
Exchange Index
94.6 (4.01)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1686.2 (-13.5)
FT-SE 100
2144.3 (-15.2)
New York Dow Jones
2554.21 (+10.40)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
23053.88 (-569.63)
Closing Prices ... Page 36

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13%-13½%
3-month eligible bills: 12½%-12¾%
US: Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 7½%
3-month Treasury Bill: 7.05%-7.07%
30-year bonds: 103½%-103¾*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.9730 £ 51.9730
E DM 6200 \$ 1.241*
E DM 6200 \$ 1.241*
E FF 5.0095 \$ 0.7520
E Yen 25.00 \$ 1.6739.55
E Index 94.6 \$ 1.0603
ECU 0.701668 SDR 0.723038
E 0.81142517 E 0.80136429

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$394.75 pm-\$395.00
close \$394.75-\$395.25 (£195.00-
195.50)
New York
Comex \$395.90-\$396.40*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan.) \$32.35 bbl (\$33.00);
it denotes latest trading price

TURBINE RATES

Australia \$ 2.645
Bank 2.645
Boys 2.645
Sells 2.645
Australia \$ 2.645
Bank 2.645
Boys 2.645
Sells 2.645
Canada \$ 2.41
Denmark Kr 11.71
Finland Mark 7.37
France Fr 10.27
Germany DM 3.04
Greece Dr 2.80
Hong Kong \$ 15.90
Ireland P 1.075
Italy L 2.290
Japan Yen 270.75
Netherlands Gld 3.425
Norway Kr 1.10
Portugal Esc 265.75
South Africa Rand 6.25
Spain Pes 182.50
Sweden Kr 11.70
Switzerland Fr 2.20
Turkey Lira 575.00
USA \$ 1.950
Yugoslavia Dr 2.05
Sells 1.950

Fees for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank Plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 1983.5 (October)

German delay leaves room for UK rate cut

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

GERMANY will not increase its interest rates next month, as many analysts had previously expected, but the Bundesbank is likely to tighten monetary policy between January and March.

The timing of the Bundesbank's next interest rate move could be crucial to Britain, as it will be almost impossible to reduce sterling interest rates in the wake of a German move in the opposite direction.

The authoritative view that Germany will not need to tighten its monetary policy until January at the earliest, will thus give the new Chancellor a brief window of opportunity to cut British rates before Christmas.

The City had long speculated on a cut in rates after December 14, the day when the next set of British retail prices index will be published. But in the past few days there had been reports from Wash-

ington that Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, was planning to recommend an increase in German rates at the central bank's council meeting on December 13. This now seems extremely unlikely.

While the Bundesbank council, which holds a regular meeting today in Frankfurt, takes a final decision on German rates, most members are satisfied with the German economy's performance. They are primarily concerned over inflationary pressures intensifying in the New Year.

The biggest worry centre on next year's public sector deficit, currently estimated at DM150 billion, and on the behaviour of German trade unions, several of which have lodged claims for 10 per cent pay increases in the new year.

The Bundesbank is likely to wait until January at the earliest to see how the deficit and wage inflation trends develop, but it is certain to push interest rates upwards

early next year on any deterioration on either front.

The Bundesbank realises a decision to tighten monetary policy would add to tensions in the European Monetary System and might provoke a confrontation with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government.

But it is unlikely to be deterred by pressures from Bonn or other European capitals. The Bundesbank has long made it clear it would welcome an EMS realignment to strengthen the mark against other European currencies.

Such a move seems to be ruled out for political reasons. But the Bundesbank view is that European countries that refuse to realign their currencies against the mark will simply have to accept higher interest rates, if these are deemed necessary to stabilise the German economy.

Whether such rate increases prove necessary depends, in turn, on how the new German government, which will be elected next weekend, performs. If the government produces a credible plan to keep next year's public sector deficit below DM150 billion, Bundesbank economists believe the present level of German interest rates might be enough to control inflation.

If a small increase in short rates were necessary, it would probably be offset by a decline in long-term bond yields, they believe. Senior officials at the finance ministry in Bonn insist that the DM150 billion ceiling will not be exceeded, adding that fiscal measures will be taken, if necessary, to keep borrowing down.

However, the central bank remains sceptical about Bonn's willingness to keep to its borrowing targets and is determined to pre-empt any additional inflationary pressures before they arise.

The forecast in the latest review of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research could encourage the new prime minister to seek a compromise formula at next month's intergovernmental conference in Rome to ensure that Britain is not left behind on monetary integration.

When justifying its decision to join the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System last month, before the figures showed inflation had peaked, the government said that it was the future path of inflation that mattered, not the past.

NIESR foresees the current account deficit only narrowing to £14.5 billion next year from £16.5 billion in 1990, much less than the improvement the government expects. The review sees the deficit persisting into the late Nineties, when it will still average £24 billion.

Leading article, page 19
Comment, page 33

Long-term inflation predicted at 1.5%

By COLIN NARROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ANNUAL inflation averaging below 2 per cent will allow Britain to join a European economic and monetary union by about 1997 without serious damage to growth and jobs, according to a leading research institute.

The forecast in the latest review of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research could encourage the new prime minister to seek a compromise formula at next month's intergovernmental conference in Rome to ensure that Britain is not left behind on monetary integration.

When justifying its decision to join the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System last month, before the figures showed inflation had peaked, the government said that it was the future path of inflation that mattered, not the past.

NIESR predicts gradual convergence between Britain and the economies of its European partners, as British inflation slows to an average

1.5 per cent in 1994-99 from its present peak. Retail price index inflation is expected to slow to 4.9 per cent by the fourth quarter next year.

The economy is seen recovering gradually from recession next year, helped by a small reduction in interest rates, to achieve growth of 1 per cent, exceeding North Sea oil, the same as this year.

In the latter half of the Nineties, short-term interest rates are forecast to have dropped to 7.5 per cent. The rate of growth will be then average about 2.5 per cent, with unemployment about 1.9 million, having fallen from 2.1 million peak in 1992. Next year, the number of jobless is set at 2 million.

NIESR foresees the current account deficit only narrowing to £14.5 billion next year from £16.5 billion in 1990, much less than the improvement the government expects. The review sees the deficit persisting into the late Nineties, when it will still average £24 billion.

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Weak dollar hurts firms

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders have acknowledged that companies are being hit hard by the weakness of the dollar, and called for an early cut in British interest rates to help ease companies' difficulties.

A number of companies with large export businesses agree that the sterling exchange rate against the dollar is causing them problems. Because America is also in recession, a number of companies there are trying to increase their penetration of markets in Britain and elsewhere.

Sterling remains above \$1.97, having touched \$1.98 before the Conservative party leadership fight was resolved.

in the market of a cut in rates as early as this week. Mr McWilliams said: "We hope that the new chancellor will be able to take action in this area as quickly as possible."

If there were not cuts before the end of the year, he said, companies would be forced to retrench even further than at present.

Mr Banham said yesterday that the review of the community charge, promised by John Major in his leadership campaign, should include a re-examination of the Uniform Business Rate, its business equivalent. He said business was paying about £2 billion more than the cost of the services it was receiving.

There are high expectations

No stampede for British Sugar

Tate & Lyle bids alone

By MICHAEL TATE AND ANGELA MACKAY

NEIL Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, confirmed that he had formally lodged a bid for British Sugar by yesterday's deadline. The tender however included "a big proviso" relating to the current investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Shaw, who was unveiling T&L's annual results for the year to September 30, said the group was prepared to set its borrowings more than double if it went ahead with buying British Sugar. However, the deal would be partly equity financed. "We believe there would be no serious difficulty in raising new equity," he said.

"The exact mix of debt and equity would depend on the financial markets at the time, but we could see our gearing level increase to between 150 and 175 per cent," he said.

"It may be that we are

required to give certain undertakings if we are to be allowed to pursue our bid," he said. These undertakings could, however, have an impact on the price T&L was prepared to pay.

Tate & Lyle was the only bidder to declare its hand at yesterday's deadline in the British Sugar auction. About five companies are thought to be in the running for Berisford International's biggest asset, but Tate & Lyle remains many people's favourite, even though it is still waiting for a verdict from the MMC. That is due by January 18. A decision would then normally be expected from the trade department within two or three weeks.

Associated British Foods, and an American company, are reported to be among the runners. Berisford's preliminary results are due in two

weeks and should coincide

with the announcement of a series of asset sales that will further cut debt from about £1 billion to less than £800 million.

Mr Shaw conceded that the acquisition of British Sugar was a "defensive" move, which would strengthen the group's cane business. But there was a warning that some British Sugar plants might be closed. Mr Shaw was confident that the group could live with a high gearing level. "In the past year we have reduced our gearing level from 159 per cent to 69 per cent and we can do it again," he said.

Group pre-tax profits for the year ended last September were £218 million against £204 million. The final dividend in 6.7p making 10p a share, against 9p last time.

Tempus, page 33



ADRIAN BROOKS

ICI aims for 50% cut in wastes by 1995

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ICI has announced new environmental targets, including a 50 per cent reduction in waste over the next five years. Plants that cannot meet its new standards will face closure.

ICI's statement, given in letters to the company's 134,000 employees and detailed in a speech by Sir Denis Henderson, the chairman, is among the most extensive promulgated by a large British industrial company.

Environmentalists are likely to see as significant the fact that the initiative has been approved by the board and is being handled by the chairman rather than by the director responsible for environmental concerns.

The announcement of the detailed objectives follows a 12-month review of ICI's environmental performance.

In his letter to staff, Sir Denis states the company's four objectives, which, he insisted, were over and above what was required by law and regulation in the countries where ICI operated. They are:

- All new ICI plants will be built to meet reasonably anticipated regulations in the most environmentally demanding country where the company operates. As an example, a new acid plant now being built in Taiwan would meet environmental standards in Britain and Germany, as well as local regulations.
- Wastes will be cut by 50 per cent by 1995. ICI will try to end off-site disposal of harmful wastes.
- A new energy conservation programme, from which benefits are expected by 1995.
- In-house waste recycling to be set up next year, which will also be offered to ICI customers.

Sir Denis said achieving the standards "will not be easy and there will be hard decisions along the way". Speaking at a conference in London, he said the objectives were so demanding that "some plants and some processes may not be able to justify the expenditure needed to improve current standards. They simply will not survive."

Environmental performance was not a matter of choice for chemical companies, but a pre-condition of remaining in the forefront of the industry.

ROBERT FRASER CURRENCY LOANS

MANAGED CURRENCY MORTGAGES?

UNITE BEHIND THE LEADER.

At Robert Fraser Currency Loans, keeping ahead of an ever changing market is key to our continued success.

Even before the UK's entry into the ERM, we developed a flexible multi-currency mortgage that not only offers an immediate switching facility but allows the loan to be held in up to five different currencies simultaneously, thus spreading the risk.

However, as even the most powerfully placed must learn, the world is full of surprises and a currency loan needs expert management to ensure that savings made from lower interest rates are not swallowed up by an unwelcome increase in the size of your mortgage.

That is why we appointed the UK's leading currency managers, The ECU Group Ltd, who over the last two difficult years have reduced our customers' mortgage debt by some 16% whilst maintaining their interest payments on average below 9%.

32 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Wagon up 14% to £9.5m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A STRONG overseas performance has ensured further profits growth at Wagon Industrial, the engineering, materials handling and office equipment group, for the six months to the end of September.

Pre-tax profits for the period advanced 14 per cent to £9.5 million on sales up 9 per cent to £134.8 million. Earnings increased 10.2 per cent to 15.5p, while the interim dividend is 10 per cent up at 6.325p.

Paul Taylor, the chairman, said all divisions improved their profits compared with the first half of last year, although some companies operated below capacity because of weak demand.

The company was well placed to face continuing economic difficulties because of its healthy overseas earnings base, the strong market position of many of its British subsidiaries and an ungered balance sheet, Mr Taylor said.

The figures included a half-year contribution from Paul Forkard, the West German engineer acquired last year.

Mr Taylor described the long-term prospects for the subsidiary as "excellent", although it had a dilutive effect on the group trading margin at the half-year stage.

'Outlook bleak' as Trimoco tumbles

By MARTIN BARROW

A SHARP fall in demand for vehicles continues to affect Trimoco, the motor dealer.

The company, which reported taxable profits almost halved to £3.81 million last year, experienced a further decline during the first six months of the current year. Profits were down from £2.8 million before tax to £1.7 million for the period ended September 30.

Earnings fell from 1.6p a share to 0.85p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.6p a share but directors gave warning that the outlook for the second half of the year remained bleak.

Keith Hill, the finance director, said: "September was

Name change at Magnet to improve firm's image

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

MAGNET Group, the highly-borrowed kitchen retailer which was rescued from financial disaster by its bankers this year, is proposing to change its name to Airedale Holdings to improve its image.

Louis Sherwood, group chairman, has written to the convertible and preference shareholders outlining the case for a name change and calling an extraordinary meeting on December 20. He wants to distance Magnet Home Improvements, the trading company, from Magnet Group, its parent.

The letter says: "The group holding company, Magnet Group plc, was formed as the vehicle for the management buyout in July 1989. In order to effect the buyout, this company assumed substantial borrowings and, largely as a result of interest on those borrowings, has incurred substantial net asset deficiency."

"Your board believes it is important to distinguish the position of Magnet Group plc from Magnet Home Improvements Ltd and its subsidiaries. Magnet Home Improvements Ltd has no net borrowings and has substantial net assets. The banks which have funded Magnet Group have no direct claim over assets of the operating companies."

Mr Sherwood says by changing the name of the holding company, the group will reduce the risk of bad news from the parent company damaging customer and supplier confidence in the operating company. The stores will continue to trade under the name of Magnet.

The group is expected to announce sizeable losses in January for the year to end-March. But this is likely to be the last time the group reports heavy exceptional charges.

The Magnet board is believed to have considered taking out an insurance policy to protect customers' deposits in the event of financial disaster. Such a policy was bought by Lowndes Queensway before it went into receivership and similar steps to safeguard consumers have been recommended by the Office of Fair Trading.

The Magnet directors are believed to have decided against the policy in favour of introducing interest-free credit on kitchen ranges. The offer, which is now available in all Magnet stores, means kitchens are delivered before the customer has to pay.

Customers still have to pass the group's credit rating test but a group spokesman says credit is available to nearly all of them. The interest-free credit offer is also designed to boost sales. Depending on the sales cycle the offer is available for between three and nine months.

Magnet Home Improvements says sales in August, September and October were strong. The group's credit rating test is 15.2 per cent.

Automotive interests, including dealerships and leasing activities, earned £2.66 million (£3.55 million). Property interests contributed £1.17 million (£1.06 million).

exceptionally poor, probably the worst on record, and there has been little improvement during October and November.

The company, which has nine Ford dealerships, said it would be unrealistic to expect a quick recovery in demand.

Turnover declined from £150.73 million to £133.30 million. Profits before interest charges fell from £4.61 million to £3.83 million. Net interest charges rose from £1.80 million to £2.12 million.

Customer spending squeeze.

Kwik Save is weathering the storm so far and expects profits to grow in the current year. In the year to August 25, pre-tax profits rose 16.5 per cent to £85.3 million on sales increased 22.7 per cent to £1.52 billion. Earnings per share grew 14.7 per cent to 36.25p and the final dividend is 8.4p, making 12.1p for the



Price war: Graeme Sealbrook says Kwik Save is the discount retailer of the Nineties

Kwik Save shrugs off Aldi

By OUR CITY STAFF

Kwik Save, the discount food retailer, has given warning that the recession will worsen before it improves. Sir Timothy Harford, the chairman, said food retailers would not be immune forever from rising unemployment and the consumer spending squeeze.

Kwik Save is weathering the storm so far and expects profits to grow in the current year. In the year to August 25, pre-tax profits rose 16.5 per cent to £85.3 million on sales increased 22.7 per cent to £1.52 billion. Earnings per share grew 14.7 per cent to 36.25p and the final dividend is 8.4p, making 12.1p for the

year, an increase of 15.2 per cent.

Graeme Sealbrook, the chief executive and managing director, said the group did not feel it was suffering as a result of the activities of Aldi, the German discount food retailer that is threatening to start a price war in Britain. "We are not complacent about Aldi but we believe Kwik Save is the discount retailer for the Nineties," he said.

The group, which has more than 700 Kwik Save and Lassieshopper stores, had like-for-like sales growth of 10.2 per cent in the year.

The company opened 28 new stores last year and five

were relocated, taking the total amount of space to more than 4 million sq ft. The group plans to open 45 stores in the current year at a cost of about £45 million, which will push its capital expenditure programme up from £61 million last year to about £90 million in the current year.

Simon Keswick, the chairman of Dairy Farm International, which has a 25 per cent stake in Kwik Save, is to join the board as a non-executive director. Arthur Edwards, an executive director of Kwik Save since 1971, is retiring from the board next month. The group's shares fell 5p to 449p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US considers relaxing airline ownership rule

THE department of transportation in America has said it is may relax the law that restricts the level of foreign ownership of American airlines to a maximum of 25 per cent as part of an effort to ease carriers' severe financial problems.

The measure is one of several under consideration, said Jeffrey Shane, assistant secretary at the department. He said the department was looking at ways "to enhance the health of the airline industry". The financial state of American airlines, suffering from the sharp increase in the price of fuel, would be improved by allowing foreign companies to take more than a total 25 per cent stake in them. Mr Shane said national security and international competitiveness must be considered before any such move is approved.

Optometrics lifts profits

OPTOMETRICS Corporation, the American optical components and instruments maker that is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, lifted pre-tax profits from \$125,000 to \$134,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose 17 per cent to \$1.85 million and earnings from 0.9 cents to 1 cent. There is no interim dividend. The shares were unchanged at 8p.

Multitone advances

MULTITONE Electronics, the radio pager manufacturer, is paying an interim dividend of 0.75p (nil), after the company travelled pre-tax profits of \$905,000 in the six months to end-October, compared with \$73,000 last time.

Turnover climbed from \$10.1 million to \$10.7 million. Earnings per share stood at 4.1p, against a 0.4p loss per share last time. Interest payments were trimmed from \$138,000 to \$159,000, after stocks and debtors were further reduced. The group's borrowings have been cut from \$4.3 million to \$1.24 million in the year to end-October.

Export growth boosts Alba

STRONG export growth helped Alba, the audio, television and consumer electronics group, to lift pre-tax profits 8 per cent to £1.05 million in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share rise from 1.71p to 1.85p. The interim dividend is 1p (1.5p). Group turnover advanced 48 per cent to £46.6 million with overseas sales accounting for about 40 per cent of total.

ABI matches forecast

ABI Leisure Group, the caravan and leisure home manufacturer floated on the stock market in February, has matched its prospectus forecast with a 38 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.9 million for the year to end-August.

David Eastwood, managing director, said domestic sales had fallen by about 20 per cent since the end of the year, but export markets, which account for 30 per cent of turnover, held up well. Steps have been taken to reduce stocks, Mr Eastwood said. As an forecast 3.1p final dividend represents an annualised 4.7p payout.

Wescol passes final dividend

By PHILIP PANGALOS

WESCOL, the structural engineering group based in Halifax, West Yorkshire, which came to the USM in October 1989, is passing its final dividend after a slump in profits. Shareholders were paid an interim dividend of 1.5p. A total of 4.5p had been forecast when the company came to the USM. There was a 0.3p loss per share, against earnings of 11.5p.

Pre-tax profits plunged from £1.48 million to £60,000 in the year to end-July despite turnover ahead by 37 per cent to £26.7 million.

The group was affected by exceptional losses of £1.19 million, mainly arising from the appointment of receivers at Rush & Tompkins in April, which resulted in losses of more than £900,000, and two other companies in July.

Operating profits slipped from £1.67 million to £1.53 million, while interest payments rose from £192,000 to £279,000.

Stephen Brown, the finance director, said: "We're picking up a lot of work. We're extremely busy." Margins have been under pressure, but Mr Brown added: "It's a hard market, but we're feeling buoyant."

The board intends to resume dividends "as soon as possible". Based on current trading and order intake, the board expects to declare an interim dividend on the profits for the first half.

John Hicks, the chairman, said: "All parts of the group are trading profitably and the board is confident this will continue."

Investment trust for smaller firms

ABERFORTH Partners, the investment manager formed by five former Ivory & Son executives, has received its first £15 million of funds by launching the Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust.

Aberforth sees the recent underperformance of smaller companies' shares as an opportunity to invest.

Shares in the investment trust, which carries the acronym ASCOT, have been placed among pension funds, insurance companies and managers of discretionary private-client funds and will be listed on the stock exchange from December 10.

Thomson profits slip despite UK recovery

By OUR CITY STAFF

THOMSON Corporation, the Canadian publishing and travel group with many British interests, reported net income of \$302 million for the nine months to end-September, against \$318 million in the first nine months of 1989.

Reported profits were marginally lower, despite a significant recovery by the group's British travel operations, which include the Lunn Poly and Thomson Holidays travel agencies and Britannia Airways, the charter airline.

At the higher priced end of the waste market, the area in

which Thomson specialises, Mr Runciman expects prices will rise 15 per cent this year. "At the top end of the market we are meeting very little competition and we do have the ability to hardened prices quite significantly."

With an overdraft of only £1.9 million Mr Runciman believes the company is in good shape to make acquisitions.

However, he does not anticipate any imminent moves as he expect the price of cash acquisitions to fall over the next nine months.

Mr Runciman is cautiously optimistic about the prospects for the full year.

He said: "While we will not be totally exempt from the market pressures, which are affecting much of the industry, we expect to produce results in line with our objectives."

Fresh plea on power prices

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NSM, the mining, building products and waste disposal group, has welcomed new shareholders with its first interim dividend for five years. Institutional investors were brought into the company last month through the stock market placing of Anglo United's 20.55 per cent stake.

But the payout of 0.5p was offset by a fall in pre-tax profits to £7.2 million (£10.6 million) in the six months to end-September. Donald Carr, the chairman, blamed the result partly on lower margins in the British energy and building products operations.

LARGE users of electricity are renewing their demand for a longer period of price protection as part of the transitional arrangements for the privatisation of electricity.

The Energy Intensive Users' Group (EIUG), the multi-industry group representing large, energy-intensive sectors of British industry, is pressing the energy secretary to extend the current, one-year period of protection on price, with the three-year protection period given to British Coal and domestic consumers.

The large users are seeking a similar, three-year period.

The group says that without

an extension of the protection period, large industrial users will face power price increases of about 25 per cent in April, which, it says, will jeopardise their export performance and investment prospects.

John Cox, director general of the Chemical Industries Association, said: "We welcome the introduction of competition in electricity supply. All we ask is parity of treatment with the other participants in the market to ensure an orderly and equitable transition to a fully competitive market."

Paterson Zochonis plc

Summary of Results

Year ended 31 May 1990

	£ 1990	£ 1989
Turnover	224.9m	205.6m
Profit before tax	25.0m	23.4m
Profit after tax	15.6m	15.3m
Earnings per share	30.51p	30.14p
Total dividends per share	9.45p	8.60p

1990 Review. Profit before taxation at £25.0m, was slightly higher than in 1989 with the improvement coming from operating profits and related companies. The increase in interest payable was matched by higher investment income.

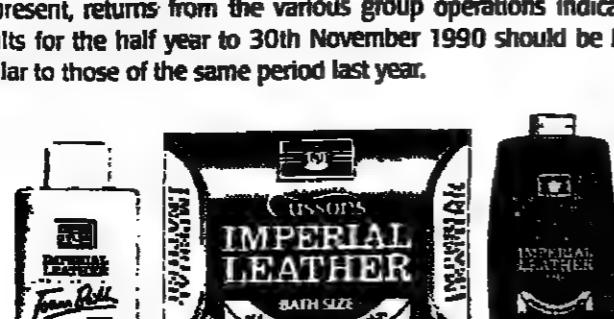
The Nigerian operations performed well with the improvement in profits in local currency terms more than sufficient to offset the fall in value of the Naira during the year.

In the United Kingdom, Cussons made good progress with higher turnover, profit and market share in its major product categories. Cussons Australia and New Zealand showed further gains.

In Indonesia and Thailand progress continues to be made in strengthening the manufacturing operations and creating distribution networks. Elsewhere in South East Asia efforts are being made to extend existing distribution arrangements and develop new markets.

Current Year. In the current year the higher oil price, if sustained, will assist Nigeria but it is unlikely, at least in the short term, to allow for any significant easing of the pressures affecting local industry. Elsewhere in Africa the economies of those countries having to import their oil requirements will be badly hit and even the more developed areas of the world will be affected to varying degrees.

At present, returns from the various group operations indicate that results for the half year to 30th November 1990 should be broadly similar to those of the same period last year.



PZ PATSON ZOCHONIS plc, BRIDGEWATER HOUSE, 60 WHITWORTH STREET, MANCHESTER M1 6LU
Alma, United Kingdom & Europe, Australia & Far East.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Siders relaxing ownership role

Optometrics lifts profits

one advances

Bank build up to £555,000

aches forecast

West passes final dividend

Meanwhile, over there, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, is worrying about the weakness of the dollar, a concern shared equally, if not more so, by businesses over here. But the two sides of the Atlantic are viewing life through different ends of the telescope.

Sterling is now so obsessed with the mark that the weakness of the dollar has crept up on us, taken us almost unawares. As everybody looked east, the world's most important currency was sinking in the west. Talk to the companies that are trying to sell commodity products in world markets, or who earn substantial sums of their profits in dollars, and the problem is brought into stark focus.

Had the pound not been coupled to the mark, a coupling that delayed entry into the ERM by many months, it would have drifted down with the dollar. Good for industry, bad for inflation.

Norman Lamont, the new Chancellor, will have to chart his way through conflicting demands of limiting the recession and

controlling inflation, a task that is made all the more difficult by the timing of the electoral cycle. But it looks likely that for once the Bundesbank is minded to be accommodating, putting back its own interest rate rise until January or later, a move that while being made for its own domestic reasons, would open the window for a modest reduction here in December.

Relations between the Bundesbank and the Treasury are

seldom better than cordial, so we can safely assume that the timing is no more than a happy accident, and that there are no German backseats drivers hiding in the Chancellor's limo.

Back in America, they are talking of "meaningful downturn" rather than recession, which is curiously still being forecast by economists rather than recorded by them. Greenspan told Congress higher energy prices arising from the Gulf troubles, uncertainty about war

and credit tightening by US banks dragged America's economic output into a "meaningful downturn" in October and November. He said underlying inflation pressures in America were starting to ease before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but that "the events in the Gulf have altered the immediate economic situation rather substantially".

As the Fed chairman gave his views on the economic impact of Washington's involvement in the Gulf, the US commerce department, citing slower consumer spending, revised its estimate of economic growth for the third quarter to 1.7 per cent from 1.8 per cent.

The government will release its final estimate for GNP between

July and September next month, but the economic forecasters are tending to look for a short recession rather than anything more serious. It's not how it looks from here, but they should know.

No ill wind

Not for the first time, nor probably the last, the profits of Robert Maxwell's Maxwell Communication Corporation had senior City analysts scratching their heads in bewilderment. Son Kevin Maxwell tried manfully to explain to them how exchange gains realised largely from repaying short-term debt made up half the

group's reported pre-tax profits. Since the dollar debt was treated as a short-term liability and the group took a currency punt on the corresponding non-dollar cash flows to minimise the sterling cost of repayment, the resulting surplus from the dollar's weakness is treated as profit by accountants but as untaxable gains from repayment of debt by the tax man.

What matters, perhaps, is that Maxwell managed to repay the remaining \$525 million of the short-term debt from its American acquisitions between the beginning of the financial year and the October deadline. Foreign exchange gains made in the process offset half the cost to the balance sheet of translating the American assets at the latest inflow.

Maxwell is budgeting for exchange gains of up to \$40 million in the second half but is banking on the dollar recovering. In any case, currency profits on

this exceptional scale will be ignored for the purpose of rating the shares.

With profits for the full year possibly reaching £180 million, you could say that Maxwell shares sell at less than eight times reported earnings but 15 or more times repeatable earnings. Since earnings per share will still be lower than 1984, however, MCC remains an income stock at best. The prospective yield is something over 13 per cent.

The next tranche of the syndicated loans are not due to be repaid until 1992 but debt, reduced since end-September from about £1.9 billion to £1.65 billion, is still troublesome at about 1.8 times net assets. Asset sales have not been going too well, with yet more of the regular transactions between Mr Maxwell's private and public interests delivering much of the recent inflow.

A further \$380 million of sales are projected by the end of the year, either from peripheral assets, joint ventures or floating off chunks of core divisions. The ship is determinedly afloat but the bales will be kept busy.

Balancing Deutsche Bank's interests



Quiet changes at Deutsche Bank: Hilmar Kopper

would amount to a European solution.

In addition, Deutsche Bank, with its substantial Italian interests, is not inclined to alienate its Italian business partners.

Herr Weis was also thought to have been in favour of a Pirelli link, although he was persuaded by his board to change his view. The board is still clinging to what is likely to be an ill-fated hope that Continental can survive the deep recession facing the tyre industry worldwide as an independent company.

In the old days, which effectively ended last year

because of its role as a key shareholder and Morgan Grenfell's involvement in the bid. This is not an entirely credible position, although the situation could look even less credible from a different angle.

The danger, however, is that if Morgan Grenfell continues to advise German companies, many of which have Deutsche Bank as a shareholder, the German bank will increasingly neutralise its positions. For an institutional investor the size of Deutsche Bank, that may not be healthy.

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because of its role as a key shareholder and Morgan Grenfell's involvement in the bid. This is not an entirely credible position, although the situation could look even less credible from a different angle.

The danger, however, is that

if Morgan Grenfell continues to advise German companies, many of which have Deutsche Bank as a shareholder, the German bank will increasingly neutralise its positions.

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because of its role as a key

* Germany is
move faster
on selling
state assets

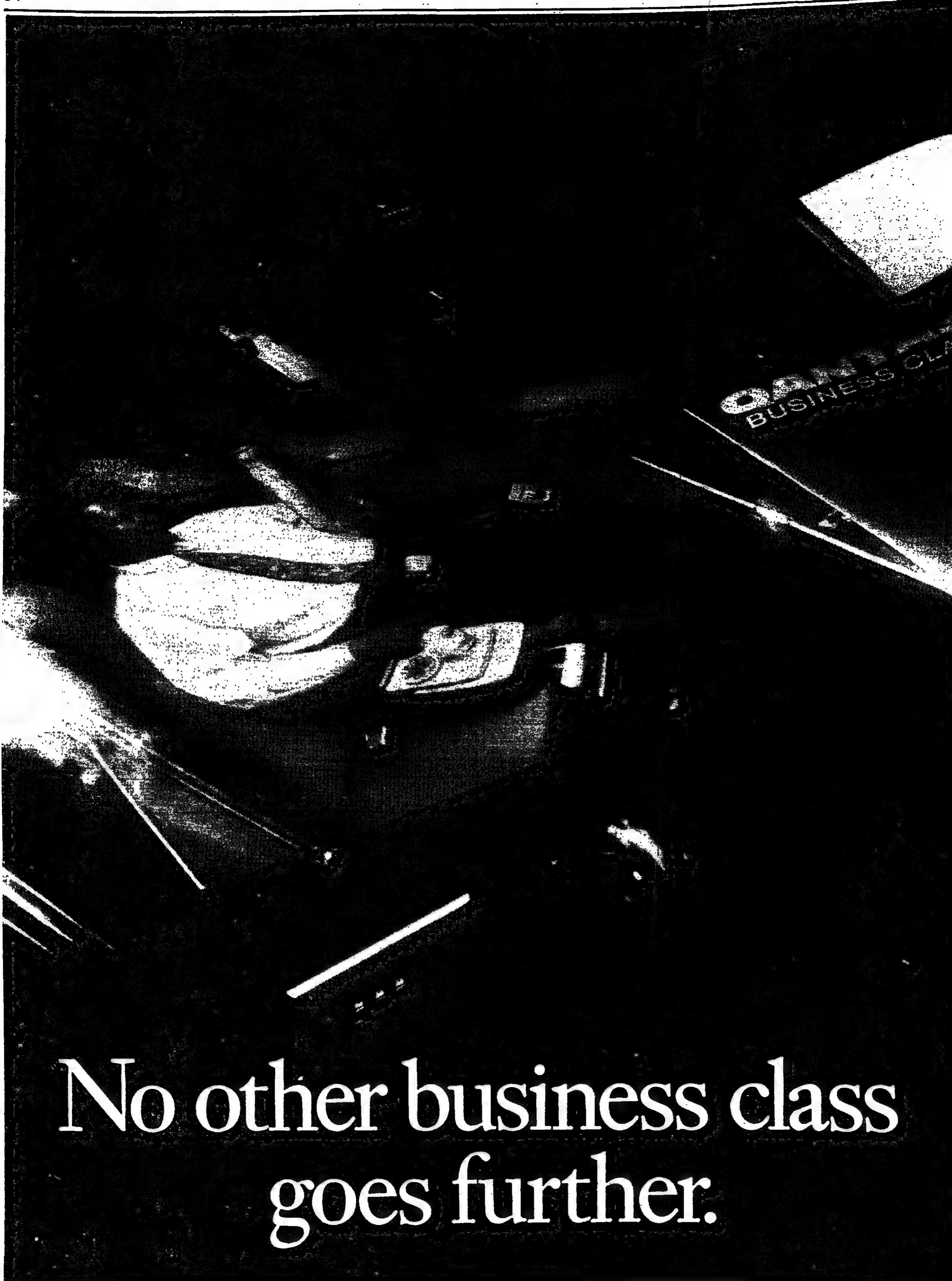
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spillika

Germany to move faster on selling state assets

By COLIN NARBROUGH

GERMANY is expected to quicken the pace of privatisation because of the soaring cost of unification.

Bonn wants to sell substantial assets in former West Germany in tandem with a massive privatisation programme in the east. The government's reluctance to raise taxes has intensified the need to find other ways of curbing spending. Cuts of DM35 billion are pledged for next year.

The Bundesbank has valued the holdings of the federal, state and local authorities as high as DM370 billion, but Theo Waigel, the finance minister, made clear yesterday that only less than DM10 billion of federal assets could feasibly be sold at present.

He confirmed that a 52 per cent stake in Lufthansa is being considered for disposal.

At the regional state level, there would be scope for asset disposals, but the interventionist nature of the regional state authorities, which use their holdings as a policy tool, makes early privatisation unlikely.

The federal government's situation is different. Hier Waigel has made clear that Bonn is committed to privatising its assets.

The economics ministry says the huge amounts of capital needed for infrastructure makes a good case for disposals.

Public-sector borrowing has

surged to about DM100 billion this year and Bonn's council of economic advisers expect this to rise to DM150 billion, or 5 per cent of GDP, next year.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Symbol	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol.	Open Int.	Put	Call
ABX L	ABX L	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX S	ABX S	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX D	ABX D	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX P	ABX P	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX C	ABX C	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX A	ABX A	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX B	ABX B	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX M	ABX M	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX F	ABX F	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX G	ABX G	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX H	ABX H	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX I	ABX I	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX J	ABX J	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX K	ABX K	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX L	ABX L	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX M	ABX M	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX N	ABX N	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX O	ABX O	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX P	ABX P	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX Q	ABX Q	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX R	ABX R	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX S	ABX S	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX T	ABX T	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX U	ABX U	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX V	ABX V	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX W	ABX W	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX X	ABX X	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX Y	ABX Y	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX Z	ABX Z	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX A	ABX A	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX B	ABX B	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX C	ABX C	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX D	ABX D	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX E	ABX E	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX F	ABX F	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
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ABX S	ABX S	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX T	ABX T	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX U	ABX U	140	132	129	132	12,200	1,200	10	10
ABX V	ABX V	140	132	12					

36 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Portfolio**PLATINUM**

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Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 35).

No. Company Group

No.	Company	Group	Code or Symbol	1990 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer Offer	Change in p	Gross Div	%	V/E
1	New Cavendish	PROPERTY		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
2	Lewis	TEXTILES		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
3	Cable & Wire (as)	ELECTRICALS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
4	WPP	PAPER, PRINT, ADV		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
5	Monaco (John)	DRAPERY, STORES		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
6	Iceland Foods	FOODS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
7	Brake Bros	FOODS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
8	Subway	BUILDING, ROADS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
9	Prosser Stevens	PROPERTY		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
10	ERF	MOTOR, AIRCRAFT		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
11	Spring Ram	INDUSTRIALS S-Z		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
12	Pratt	BUILDING, ROADS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
13	Nu-Servit	INDUSTRIALS L-R		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
14	Lens (Alba II)	FOODS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
15	Woodside	Oil/Gas		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
16	Tibbet & Britton	TRANSPORT		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
17	Smith David	PAPER, PRINT, ADV		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
18	News Int'l	NEWSPAPERS, PUB		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
19	Vibracast	BUILDING, ROADS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
20	Perkins Food	FOODS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
21	Ley	TRANSPORT		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
22	Kalamazoo	INDUSTRIALS E-K		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
23	Cookson (as)	INDUSTRIALS A-D		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
24	RHM (as)	FOODS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
25	Lester	TEXTILES		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
26	Trans Europe	Oil/Gas		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
27	AMC Grp (as)	BUILDING, ROADS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
28	STR (as)	INDUSTRIALS A-D		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
29	Sharp & Fisher	BUILDING, ROADS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
30	Vesco Thorne	INDUSTRIALS S-Z		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
31	Cycle Pak	Oil/Gas		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
32	Woolley	INDUSTRIALS S-Z		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
33	Cambridge Elec	ELECTRICALS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
34	Charter Coms	INDUSTRIALS A-D		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
35	Sycomore	INDUSTRIALS S-Z		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
36	Medeva	INDUSTRIALS L-R		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
37	Wholesale Fittings	ELECTRICALS		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
38	Young (H)	INDUSTRIALS S-Z		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
39	Petrocan	Oil/Gas		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
40	Color Grp	Oil/Gas		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
41	Provident	BANKS, DISCOUNT		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
42	Davis (Goffrey)	INDUSTRIALS A-D		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
43	Mersey Docks	TRANSPORT		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5
44	Carr Allen	BANKS, DISCOUNT		112	108	112	112	112	-1	1.12	1.00	2.5

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN Total

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Helen Gallagher, of Bellshill, Lanarkshire and Mr Norman Woodley, of Sandstead, Surrey, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Fund	Price	Change	Yield	1990	High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer Offer	Change in p	Gross Div	%	V/E
1	SHORTE'S (Under Five Years)	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
2	FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
3	OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
4	UNDATED	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
5	INDEX-LINKED	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
6	BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
7	ELECTRICALS	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
8	DRAPERY, STORES	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
9	HOTELS, CATERERS	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
10	INDUSTRIALS A-D	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	-0.05	1.00	1.00	2.5
11	FINANCIAL TRUSTS	102.00	-0.05	4.00	102.00	1								

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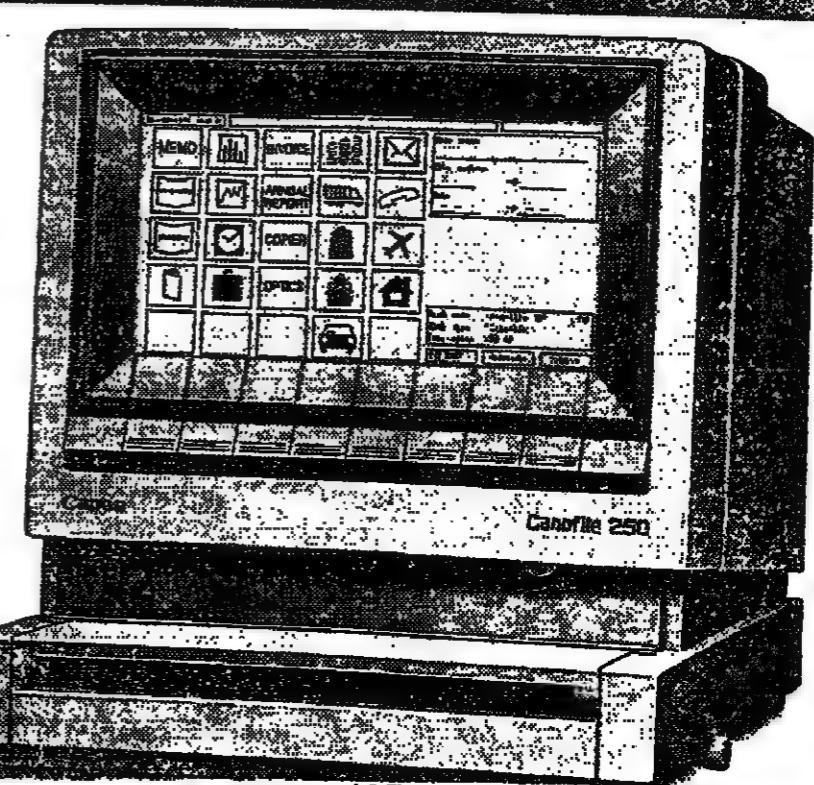
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Asia Pacific	95.41 101.8c -0.2 0.93		
Assets/Cents	147.5 165.5c -0.2 3.45		
Capl. Res.	95.90 100.0c -0.2 7.14		
Comv/Energy	73.31 78.4c -0.2 1.41		
Euro Corp	70.02 84.2c -0.2 2.28		
General	151.0 161.4c -0.2 3.10		
Japan	88.28 97.2c -0.2 2.03		
US Govt Inc	156.7 164.2c -0.2 0.93		
Do Acc	156.7 164.2c -0.2 0.93		
Int'l Corp	110.2 117.0c -0.2 3.05		
Inv. Income	102.5 114.7c -0.2 1.27		
Euro Index	405.1 503.4c -0.2 5.76		
Euro Index	57.45 65.4c -0.2 1.56		
Euro Growth	55.24 67.4c -0.2 2.22		
Fund Svc 5.3	52.50 60.0c -0.2 0.93		
Fund Gen 8.6	45.47 51.7c -0.2 5.93		
Income	265.6 311.5c -0.2 5.94		
Int'l Cm	48.74 55.9c -0.2 1.16		
Int'l Cm	55.91 57.5c -0.2 0.93		
Tiger Fund	217.3 225.0c -0.2 2.25		
Tiger Fund	83.25 87.5c -0.2 2.07		
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Artif. Port	42.44 45.6c -0.2 2.23		
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T. C. Inv. Tr	59.12 101.7c -0.2 3.33		
Spec Inv	58.53 93.7c -0.2 4.45		
Int'l Cm	41.37 45.4c -0.2 2.03		
Port	45.23 48.6c -0.2 2.50		
Ethical	51.65 53.0c -0.2 1.02		
Artif. Inv	41.86 44.6c -0.2 2.71		
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Exempt	67.82 70.0c -0.2 1.32		
Expat Inv	38.29 38.74c -0.2 0.61		
F/F Inv	40.23 40.6c -0.2 0.93		
Allied DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS LTD	10, Castle Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Tel: 01224 830303 (Glasgow) 0800 855656		
Am Inv/Inv	23.95 23.00 -0.2 0.53	3.12	
Euro Inv	65.57 70.7c -0.2 1.73		
Exempt Inv	67.82 70.0c -0.2 1.32		
Expat Inv	38.29 38.74c -0.2 0.61		
F/F Inv	40.23 40.6c -0.2 0.93		
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND	2, Rose Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 0171-5818210		
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND	2, Rose Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 0171-5818210		
EQUITY & LAW	St George's Hall Corporation St. Cuthbert, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 8LG Tel: 0191-2300021		
Charity Inv	102.7 111.0c -0.2 1.45		
Do Inv	105.1 117.0c -0.2 1.35		
Hedge Inv	113.0 124.0c -0.2 1.25		
Global Inv	200.20 200.0c -0.2 0.93		
Int'l Inv	127.7 131.7c -0.2 1.52		
Do Inv	77.74 81.8c -0.2 0.82		
Am Inv	100.7 107.9c -0.2 1.07		
For East	100.2 101.7c -0.2 1.13		
Europe	193.5 205.8c -0.2 1.47		
Exempt	255.1 314.0c -0.2 4.47		
Expat Inv	45.57 49.1c -0.2 1.07		
Int'l Inv	48.73 52.9c -0.2 1.25		
Do Acc	57.19 60.6c -0.2 1.03		
Global Inv	47.71 48.0c -0.2 0.93		
GLOBAL UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD	PO Box 1222 Beckenham Kent BR3 4PN Tel: 081-865 3026		
Euro Inv	71.95 76.9c -0.2 1.03	1.25	
1990 Euro Inv	55.29 55.11c -0.2 1.03		
Int'l Inv	55.33 52.27c -0.2 1.03		
NAIS Inv	57.44 60.0c -0.2 1.15		
Do Inv	128.0 128.0c -0.2 1.15		
Do Inv	70.02 70.0c -0.2 1.15		
Charities Inv	42.84 44.6c -0.2 1.03		
GLOBAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD	2, Rose Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 0171-5818210		
Euro Inv	71.95 76.9c -0.2 1.03	1.25	
1990 Euro Inv	55.29 55.11c -0.2 1.03		
Int'l Inv	55.33 52.27c -0.2 1.03		
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Do Inv	70.02 70.0c -0.2 1.15		
Charities Inv	42.84 44.6c -0.2 1.03		
GLOBAL INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD	Global House, 128 Highgate Hill, Northgate, London NW1 2EE Tel: 0171-474181		
Am Inv	100.0 118.0c -0.2 1.03	1.05	
Am Inv/Inv	104.1 116.0c -0.2 0.93	3.10	
Conviction	57.33 61.5c -0.2 0.93		
Do Inv	57.33 61.5c -0.2 0.93	1.05	
Equity Inv	65.51 70.3c -0.2 1.03	1.25	
Euro Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Exempt Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Expat Inv	45.45 51.4c -0.2 1.03		
Int'l Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Do Inv	57.33 61.5c -0.2 0.93	1.05	
Global Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Do Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
MEDICAL UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD	Medical House, 500 Gt. Ormond St, London WC1X 8HN Tel: 0171-5808000		
Am Growth	18.33 20.0c -0.2 0.95	0.81	
Am Inv	10.33 12.0c -0.2 0.94	1.25	
Dragon Inv	20.50 22.0c -0.2 1.03	1.25	
Global Inv	46.51 50.1c -0.2 0.93	0.23	
Int'l Inv	53.52 57.2c -0.2 0.93	1.25	
Euro Growth	31.25 33.5c -0.2 0.93	1.25	
Exempt Inv	55.51 58.4c -0.2 0.93	0.45	
Expat Inv	22.49 25.0c -0.2 0.93	1.25	
Int'l Inv	30.21 33.7c -0.2 0.93	1.25	
Do Inv	55.51 58.4c -0.2 0.93	0.45	
Service Inv	55.51 58.4c -0.2 0.93	0.45	
Charity Inv	55.51 58.4c -0.2 0.93	0.45	
GLOBAL EQUIVALENT-CAP INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD	GLOBAL EQUIVALENT-CAP INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD		
Am Inv	100.0 107.0c -0.2 1.03	1.05	
Am Inv/Inv	104.1 116.0c -0.2 0.93	3.10	
Conviction	57.33 61.5c -0.2 0.93		
Do Inv	57.33 61.5c -0.2 0.93	1.05	
Equity Inv	65.51 70.3c -0.2 1.03	1.25	
Euro Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Exempt Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Expat Inv	45.45 51.4c -0.2 1.03		
Int'l Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Do Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
Charities Inv	55.22 57.2c -0.2 0.93		
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Euro Inv	71.95 76.9c -0.2 1.03	1.25	
1990 Euro Inv	55.29 55.11c -0.2 1.03		
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1990 Euro Inv	55.29 55.11c -0.2 1.03		
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Int'l Inv	55.33 52.27c -0.2 1.03		
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Do Inv	128.0 128.0c -0.2 1.15		
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UNLISTED SECURITIES

SPORTS LETTERS

Weighty problem for RFU

From Mr George Crawford
Sir, Last Saturday a boy was seriously injured in a rugby union colts game at a highly respected school in Surrey. He was in the front row of a scrum which collapsed and was rushed to hospital, where he is likely to remain for some time.

The game was being refereed by a very senior referee who had turned out in the hope that his presence and undoubted talents would benefit the youngsters. From the outset it was clear that one set of forwards was bigger than the other, although all the boys met the age criteria. It was also obvious that there was going to be an imbalance in the scrums and the referee was insistent that the players should bind in the way prescribed by the laws.

He continually encouraged them to bind properly and took great care to ensure that safety was paramount. The surface was slippery and the heavier pack obviously dominated the opposition, but there were no real difficulties until near the end of the first half when both front rows lost their footing and the scrum collapsed.

All the players got up except one, and it was obvious to the referee and spectators that this boy had been seriously injured. Fortunately, a doctor was present and he was able to supervise the boy's comfort and medical needs. The referee abandoned the game and whilst the ambulance arrived quickly on the scene, the boy was not moved for about half an hour to ensure that no further damage was caused.

Whilst this is still a fairly rare occurrence in rugby, there is a real responsibility amongst the rugby authorities to try to ensure that the risk is reduced to the absolute minimum. Should

we continue to band players at school level by age or should we now go by weight, especially for forwards?

A 16st youngster in the front row will always beat one who is 8st, for although the experience might be the same, the fatigue factor wins out in the end. The danger to the front row is also increased where one set of forwards heavily outweighs the other.

The pressure in the front row is intense at the best of times, if one team is totally dominant, there is a real danger that the weaker pack will collapse through exhaustion. There is also an equal danger that the weaker front row will take a flyer (get lifted off the ground) and from my experiences in the front row over a playing career of 20 years, this is by far the greatest danger. The player can do nothing and the pressure put on the neck, with both packs still pushing forward, puts him in real danger of having his neck broken. Whilst qualify referees are well aware of this danger, even they are sometimes unable to reduce the danger because the damage has to be done in a second.

Adult players will say that this problem can arise in senior games, but there is a greater responsibility in those who have the game at heart to ensure that every precaution is taken to reduce dangers to a minimum. Mums and dads want to be satisfied that their child is allowed to enjoy rugby without excess risks. Is it not now time for the Rugby Football Union to come up with a safer criterion than age alone for the selection of teams in the youth groups?

G. CRAWFORD,
23 Grafton Close,
Worcester Park,
Surrey.

A national embarrassment

From Mr Andrew Dillon

Sir, I attended the recent football match between Ireland and England at Lansdowne Road in Dublin (report November 15). I had the extraordinary experience of sitting right in the midst of the English fans. The ticket was a gift and I assume, thus my extraordinary position as probably the only Paddy among 4,000 English.

Up until this time I had only read about this distant and foreign problem called football hooliganism. I doubt if many of your readers have ever experienced anything close to what I witnessed. These people resemble other human beings only in that they have flesh and blood. There was no apparent life above the vocal chords. Swear words comprised approximately 50 per cent of their vocabulary.

The slogans which they sang throughout the playing of the Irish national anthem were quite simple to understand. During the remainder of the match, when they weren't uttering these oaths, they sang snatches of "God Save the Queen", "No Surrender to the IRA" and then "Rule Britannia". Then they would simply

produce four-letter oaths insulting their Irish hosts.

While the game was in action most of these so-called fans appeared to have more interest in burning recently purchased Irish flags. Nobody could see this apparent attempt to offend other than themselves, but it seemed to give them more pleasure than the football.

On the other hand, the majority Irish element at the match, if they sang or chanted, tended to sing football songs, "Molly Malone" or other well known and popular Irish songs.

What has happened over there? How does your system of education or your social organisation allow such indecency to be produced?

There is no way of controlling them because all they appear to want is a good fight and obviously one can have that just as easily with an Irish fan as with an Irish policeman. These people should be an embarrassment to your country and should be kept out of sight. Yours faithfully,

ANDREW DILLON
(Solicitor),
Timoleague,
Co Cork,

Whose ball is it?

From Mr Michael L. Boland

Sir, The article by you on television camerawork (November 15) express views which must be widespread. However, you seem to include the most blatant example, namely the insistence on stopping the hugging and kissing which follows every goal scored in football, and similar achievements in other sports. I also include the aggressive waving of clenched fists.

Apart from using up valuable time in replays, harping on such behaviour encourages it, so that it has spread to the humblest village football and is even creeping into rugby. The young follow what they see on television, and it must be difficult for schoolmasters to restrain their charges. A moratorium on the inclusion of close-ups of such behaviour would surely lessen it being copied.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOLAND,
95 All-ty-ya Avenue,
Newport, Gwent.

I have always wondered why the bowlers and fielders have been permitted to influence the condition of the ball between deliveries and overs by rubbing it on their flannels to preserve or enhance the shine whereas the batsman is not permitted, other than in the course of actual play, to influence its condition by, say, hitting it with his bat before it even to reduce the shine. Is it that the non-fielding side should have exclusive access to the ball?

I suggest that the fairest view is that neither side should be allowed to interfere with the ball in any manner whatsoever and that the penalty for such interference be dismissal of the batsman or fielder/bowler from the field.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KEEBLE,
7 Robin Road,
Cleethorpes, Humberside.

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I suggest that the fairest view is that neither side should be allowed to interfere with the ball in any manner whatsoever and that the penalty for such interference be dismissal of the batsman or fielder/bowler from the field.

At the end of the fight the winner had nothing but praise for his unfortunate opponent and had to refuse to continue replying to questions because "he was not fit for the pain". He had a split tongue, besides having received a punishing punch in the groin and countless violent blows on his face and head.

I think that this reception was the familiar English trait of everyone loving a loser. Perhaps being involved in non-League football, Mr Gowen has not yet become as cynical as me.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. TAYLOR,
14 Waxes Close,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

This is true. It was necessary in order to clear a site for the school's new design and technology centre.

We do not, however, intend to deprive ourselves for long of Rugby's second game. New fixtures are planned on Caledon's Piece as part of the second phase of our recently completed sports centre.

A civilised society should not accept these events. This inhumane sport should be banned in Britain.

Yours sincerely,
P. W. HOWARD,
27 Eastbury Road,
Northwood,
Middlesex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

They should include a daytime telephone number.

The boxer also made complimentary statements about his opponent and stated that in round four after an impact on his left eye, he was unable to see properly. The contest continued for five further manifestly vicious rounds, before the referee stopped it. At the end you could not see his eye at all, because of the swelling.

A civilised society should not accept these events. This inhumane sport should be banned in Britain.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF HELLIWELL,
Rugby School,
Rugby, Warwickshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

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Ashes to ashes

From Mr R. V. Taylor

Sir, I am alone in objecting to the use of the term Ashes in reference to matches between England and Australia in sports other than cricket?

We do not, however, intend to deprive ourselves for long of Rugby's second game. New fixtures are planned on Caledon's Piece as part of the second phase of our recently completed sports centre.

A civilised society should not accept these events. This inhumane sport should be banned in Britain.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. TAYLOR,
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Chance for Black Amber to atone

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

RICHARD DUNWOODY can extend his lead at the top of the jockeys' table by landing a double at Warwick today on Black Amber (2.0) and Shamana (3.30).

It will need all of his very considerable skill, amassed over a period of seven years, to win the *Taxineers Magazine Novices' Chase* on Black Amber, whose own impetuosity was arguably the cause of his downfall at Ascot last time.

He was simply going too fast for his own good when he met the first of the downhill fences where he overjumped and knocked on landing.

Before that, though, Black Amber had put in a clear round at Cheltenham after also winning at Fakenham and I believe he is entitled to the benefit of the doubt in this instance. With Jeaus, Laundryman, Tildars and Cinnamorn Run in the field, however, he will not be able to afford any mistakes.



Dunwoody holds strong hand at Warwick today

In going for Shamana to win the *Lemming Novices' Hurdle*, I am aware that she was beaten eight lengths by Dusty Miller, one of today's rivals, in a bumper at Newbury five weeks ago. However, that was the first race of her life whereas Dusty Miller had run before.

Shamana, who is by her owner and breeder Lord Northampton's good hurdler

Broadsword, has come out since and won her first race over hurdles at Huntingdon. Dusty Miller lacks that vital jumping experience.

While Dunwoody will be hopeful of a good ride on Pinchcott Hill in the Red Square Novices' Hurdle, my preference lies with the Newbury winner, Johnny Will, especially since Le Buceron would not have won at Uttoxeter had not Tommy Oss fallen at the last flight when in complete command.

Outside Edge, who was a successful second to Twins Oaks at Haydock a week ago, can go one better in the Westminster-Motor Taxi Insurance Handicap Chase.

The task of landing today's race, though, is entrusted to Graham Bradley aboard

Ardrifin in the Heads Nook Novices' Chase at Carlisle.

Formerly trained by Barley,

Ardrifin is now with Tony and Monica Dickinson's son-in-law, Thomas Tate, for whom he turned in a delightful display of jumping four weeks ago at Wetherby where he made all the running to win his first chase by 15 lengths.

Storm Island (2.45) and Wensleydalewilliams (2.15), promising recruits from National Hunt flat racing, could now make their mark over hurdles on the Cumbrian track where Mark Dryer has sound prospects of landing a

Sandcliff Way looks another winner for Barry Hills on the all-weather at Lingfield where Mel's Rose should prove capable of winning the Tip Rental and Leasing Apprentice Handicap, even under top weight.

Outside Edge, who was a successful second to Twins Oaks at Haydock a week ago, can go one better in the Westminster-Motor Taxi Insurance Handicap Chase.

This is a reciprocal visit after a British team rode in the Soviet

Union last summer. The Soviet team arrived on Sunday, and have been getting a flavour of National Hunt racing with a team trial. Peter McLean said: "They're thrilled to be here. We've taken them racing at Stratford. They've also ridden work with Kim Bailey and Oliver Sherwood."

WARWICK

Selections
By Mandarin

1.20 Johnny Will.
1.00 Outside Edge.
1.30 Monk's Mistake.

By Michael Seely
12.30 Johnny Will 2.00 Tildars.

Going: good

12.30 RED SQUARE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,192, 2m 5f) (25 runners)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1. 100-1 CACHE FLIR 14 (FL) Mr Phipps to Phipps 6-11-8																									
2. 0-1 JOHNNY WILL 22 (FL) (Lord Cheltenham) Mrs K Hugill 5-11-8																									
3. 0-1 LE BUCERON 21 (FL) Mrs S King & Ryans 6-11-8																									
4. 0-2 ARAPAHO CHEE 10 (T) Leng & Rutherford 5-10-10																									
5. 0-2 WESTMINSTER COTTAGE 12 (FL) Chenevay D Chenevay 5-10-10																									
6. 0-2 GOLOMONT 14 (FL) (P) Mrs J. & Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
7. 0-2 EXTRA SPLEEN 14 (FL) (P) (Open) Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
8. 0-2 HAZZARD'S BOY 10 (FL) Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
9. 0-2 HINDCROFT BOY 10 (FL) Mrs Mary C Chenevay 5-10-10																									
10. 0-2 HINDCROFT HILL 18 (FL) Mrs Brown D Henderson 5-10-10																									
11. 0-2 HINDCROFT LADY 17 (FL) Mrs Chenevay 5-10-10																									
12. 0-2 HINDCROFT'S BOY 10 (FL) Mrs Lucy & Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
13. 0-2 HINDCROFT'S GIRL 10 (FL) Mrs Lucy & Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
14. 0-2 RYTHON 10 (FL) Mrs Lucy & Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
15. 0-2 SILVER SKYLARK 254 (FL) (Open) Mrs Lucy & Mrs G. Turner 5-10-10																									
16. 0-2 SHAMANA 10 (FL) Chenevay 5-10-10																									
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SPORT

A time for the minister to raise his game

JOHN Major spends his leisure time watching Chelsea or Surrey at play. He is aware just how much sport matters to the ordinary man and woman. When the new prime minister has attended to more pressing priorities, he should see to it that for the first time the ministry of sport really matters.

To elevate Robert Atkins, the present incumbent, to cabinet rank, as a senior minister of state, would be one of the most popular and sensible alterations in government in the eyes of the common voter, next to adjustments to the community charge and inflation. Sport, after money, is the opium of the people.

The new prime minister is extraordinary in his ordinariness. Within Conservative ranks, it is

DAVID MILLER

the uniqueness of his appeal. Atkins is one of his oldest friends in politics, for more than 20 years. The unofficial allegiance of Major and Atkins Inc could be, in the words of Peter Lawson, the general secretary, at yesterday's opening of the annual Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) conference, sport's dream ticket.

Atkins, who is agreeable not least for his modesty — "I know nothing about the job and am learning" — was quick yesterday to question whether he could be half of any dream. Yet with Kenneth Clarke and Tim Eggar

(education) and Chris Patten (Conservative party chairman) also attuned to sport, there has never been a better time for sporting interests — as represented by the CCPR, the forum of governing bodies and political and social watchdogs — to achieve significant advance.

Up to now, a succession of under-secretaries with responsibility for sport (sic) have been able to devote little more than an hour and a half a day to sport, the main function being to grant aid and monitor the funding of the Sports Council.

Sports ministers have been the nation's most prominent practitioners of sport for the disabled.

In his address yesterday, his first important public statement, Atkins outlined a dozen or more

initiatives begun or encouraged by predecessors and now by him.

The influence on the National Curriculum Council (NCC) to contain more sport, with a working party being chaired by Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow, (department of education and science); the introduction of new spectator criminal offences (Home Office); the implementation of recommended new laws against drug possession (Home Office); a register of playing fields (environment); corporation tax relief (cheque); rate relief for sports organisations (local authorities); all-seater stadiums (Home Office); and so on.

Independence on policy would still be maintained by individual governing bodies, at grass-roots level especially, and by the British Olympic Association for elite sport.

A properly funded and administered British International Sports Committee would be able, as Atkins suggested yesterday, to pursue the opportunity to regain

under prime ministers who were uninterested in, not to say ignorant about, sport.

Now is the moment to put sport properly on the map. By raising the job to a department of state, the prime minister would in one move resolve the controversial status of the Sports Council. It would become a genuine ministerial department and stop having to pretend it was not.

Independence on policy would still be maintained by individual governing bodies, at grass-roots level especially, and by the British Olympic Association for elite sport.

Manchester's bid to stage the 1996 Olympic Games failed in Tokyo partly because it had a brilliant conception but nothing in bricks and mortar.

Vitaly Smirnov, an influential member of the International

Olympic Committee from the Soviet Union, recently observed that in almost 20 years he had never had occasion to come to Britain for an official engagement.

The most valuable contribution Atkins can make to sport is to convince his friend at No. 10 that a century's tradition of self-sufficiency on the playing fields is no longer a virtue but, at least internationally, an insurmountable handicap. When aligned against the central funding, say, of China, Germany, or even impoverished Italy, hosts of football's World Cup, Britain will never be in the top league. Not unless Major chooses to change things.

CCPR's euphoria, page 43

AC Milan deny rumours of a Gullit transfer

AC MILAN, the reigning European champions from Italy, yesterday denied reports that they are to part company with Ruud Gullit, the Dutch international, at the end of the season.

Gullit, aged 28, has failed to rediscover his best form after a one-year absence caused by a knee injury that required three operations, and, as a result, rumours have begun to circulate in Italy that the Milan club is already looking for a replacement for him next season.

Cronaca dello Sport, the Rome-based daily sports newspaper, has already identified several possible successors, including the German forward, Karl-Heinz Riedle, who presently plays in Italy with Lazio in Rome, and the Yugoslav player, Dejan Savicevic.

Before the season got underway, Gullit's career at Milan was thought to be in some doubt, and the club was close to signing the Romanian international midfield player, Gheorghe Hagi, from Steaua Bucharest, to replace. However, Gullit proved he was returning to fitness both during and after the World Cup final, and Hagi was moved to Real Madrid.

"We have been patient with Gullit for nearly two years [when he was plagued by injuries]," the Milan coach, Arrigo Sacchi, said. "We shall be patient until he recovers the best form. We are not seeking any substitute for him." A Milan spokesman added that reports of a pos-



Gullit: still recovering

sible transfer of Gullit to another club at the end of the present season were groundless".

Gullit, the former captain of the Netherlands national team, blamed an uncertain physical condition for his recent mixed performances. "I will be at 100 per cent within a few weeks, when my efficiency will be fully restored. I am also suffering from the fact I am playing as a forward while I was used to starting the action from behind," he said.

The Dutch forward has scored just a single goal in ten Italian league matches this season and none in four European Cup matches.

Milan, seeking their third consecutive European Cup and their second inter-continental Cup this season, have suffered two defeats in the three last league games and are in fourth place, two points behind Internazionale, their

Marseilles deny big undeclared payments

MARSEILLES — Bernard Tapie, the chairman of the French champions, Marseilles, has denied claims that the club made undeclared payments of £1.6 million to Chris Waddle, the England international (Agencies report).

The claims, made in the satirical magazine, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, are the latest suggestions of scandal, after a succession of investigations into the way leading French clubs are run.

The magazine reported that Marseilles paid the money to two English firms, Happy Promotion and Consensus Limited, when the player joined the club from Tottenham Hotspur in 1989 for £4.4 million.

Tapie said: "The figures are just about right but the reasoning is wrong. We paid companies for work they did for us." He added that Marseilles often paid companies for taking care of travel and hotel arrangements when the club played friendly matches.

"If you want to be the best, you have to play in the same yard as the big boys and that means you are compelled to deal with lawyers, agents, business partners," Tapie said.

Le Canard Enchaîné also claimed that £350,000 was transferred to an Irish-based firm called Cheire Development Ltd when Manuel Amoros, reputed to be France's highest-paid player at Monaco two years ago.

Tapie said he saw nothing illegal in the arrangements. "If our arguments are not accepted then we will have to pay back taxes," he said.

The Naples president, Corrado Ferlaino, emphasised that Marseilles' contract with the club expires in 1993 and that an early split between player and club could be discussed only at the end of the current season.

Maradona has helped Naples win two Italian league titles and an Uefa Cup since his transfer from Barcelona in 1984. However, his spell at Naples has sometimes been acrimonious, in particular since the World Cup, when he captained Argentina as they reached the final, beating Italy in a controversial semi-final on penalties.

On Monday, victory turned

to defeat for the overnight leader, Juha Kankunen, of Finland, whose car somersaulted out of the rally after hitting ice on the third

stage of the day.

On Monday, it looked as if

Sainz had been robbed of

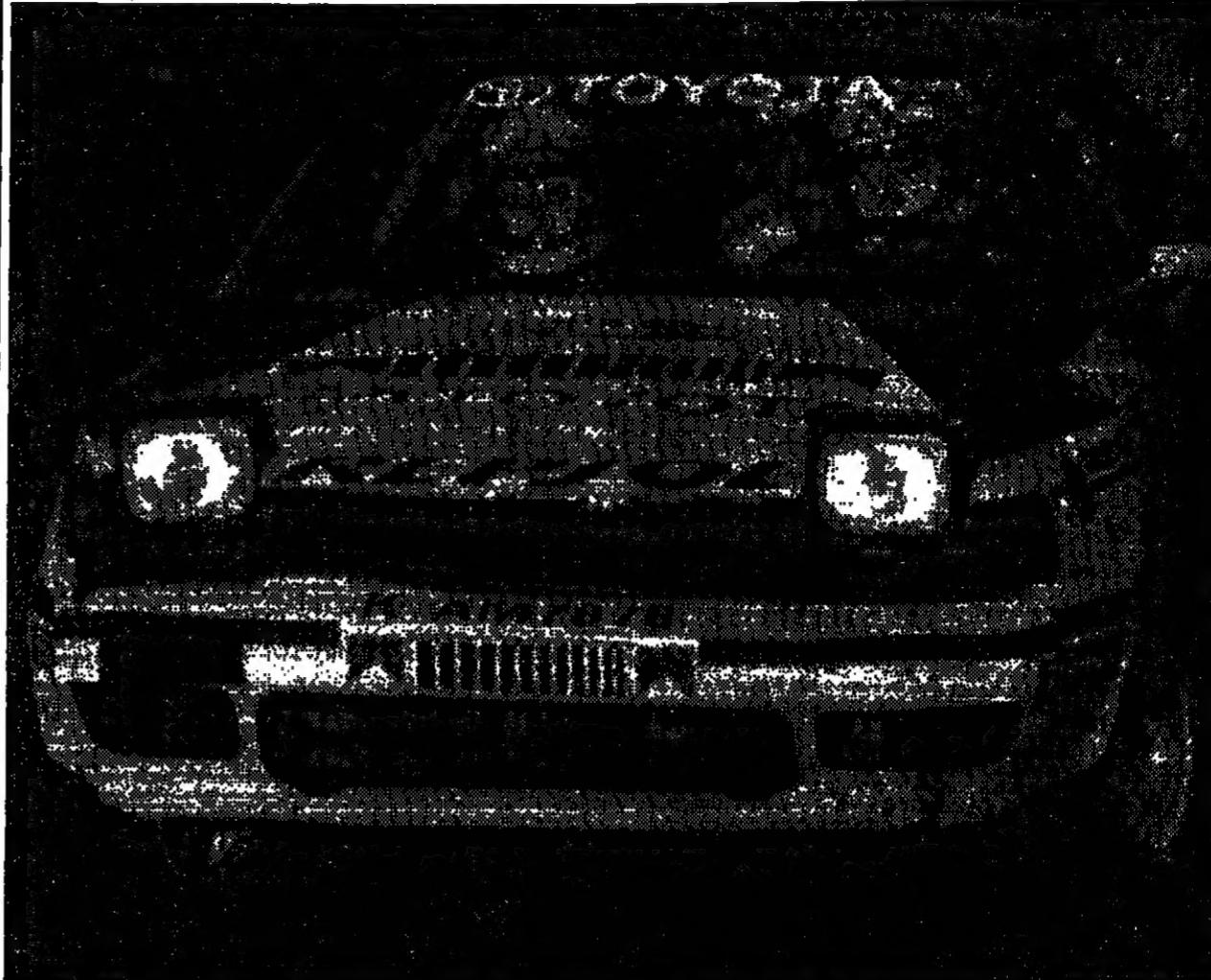
victory again. After dominating the third day, he was delayed for 40 seconds by a puncture, and lost the lead to

Kankunen.

In the early-morning chill of

the Newcastle special stage yesterday, the Finn's luck ran

Lombard RAC Rally winner crosses the line



Carlos Sainz and Luis Moya slide towards victory at the finish of the Lombard RAC Rally

Luck comes Sainz's way at last

By STEPHEN SLATER

CARLOS Sainz, of Spain, drove his Toyota Celica GT4 into Harrogate last night to win the Lombard RAC rally and gain some consolation for his disappointment 12 months ago. Last year, Sainz lost the lead when his car had a transmission problem with just five competitive miles remaining.

This year, victory turned out for the overnight leader, Juha Kankunen, of Finland, whose car somersaulted out of the rally after hitting ice on the third stage of the day.

On Monday, it looked as if Sainz had been robbed of victory again. After dominating the third day, he was delayed for 40 seconds by a puncture, and lost the lead to Kankunen.

In the early-morning chill of the Newcastle special stage yesterday, the Finn's luck ran

out. An unseen patch of ice on a fast S-bend at the start of the 11-mile stage caught out the Lancia driver and the car left the track at high speed, rolling over several times before coming to rest on its roof at the bottom of a bank.

Kankunen and Juha Piironen, his co-driver, fought to escape through the windows as petrol leaked into the wrecked car. "My big worry was fire," said Kankunen, but the worst of his damage was a bleeding nose.

Promoted to second place by the accident was the Mitsubishi of Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, who had a fantastic fight on Tuesday, but even when we lost the lead we still believed we could win and were fighting back when he had his accident.

From the first time I came to the RAC rally in 1987 it has always been my favourite, because it is the toughest in the world."

Although Sainz and Luis Moya, his co-driver, admitted to easing their pace to ensure

finishing the final special stages in the Lake District, the tens of thousands of spectators

who again braved the cold

were rewarded by spectacular

action as a battle developed

between the Ford of Colin

McRae and the Toyota of David Llewellyn. McRae won their fight to be the first British finisher by finishing sixth.

Four days of regular contact with the scenery had taken their toll of the bodywork of McRae's Sierra Cosworth. "The car drives just fine, but it looks like a mobile shed," McRae said.

Llewellyn, in eighth place, complimented his rival's driving.

In the Group N category for cars with minimum modifications from standard, Gwynaf Evans paced himself perfectly to take victory and eleventh place overall.

LEADERSTON, POSITION: Peter 41 (sport); 1, C. Sainz and L. Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 43min 16sec); 2, M. Eriksson and J. Piironen (Mitsubishi); 3, Luis M. Moya (Lancia Delta Integrale, 5hr 42min 44sec); 4, M. Johnson and A. O'Connor (Ford Sierra Cosworth, 5hr 42min 44sec); 5, D. McRae and B. O'Neill (Lancia Delta Integrale, 5hr 51min 04sec); 6, C. McRae and D. Price (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth, 5hr 52min 17sec.

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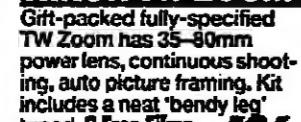


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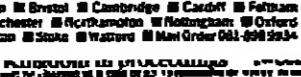


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SYDNEY — Leading players have attacked the layout of The Australian course here, venue for this week's Australian Open, saying the 18th hole has been spoilt by corporate boxes clustered around the green (Reuters reports).

The field for the tournament, which begins today, includes Greg Norman, of Australia, and Nick Faldo, of Britain, the top two players in the world according to the rankings.

"Most players will simply take the lake out of play by taking an extra club for the shot to the green," the Australian

Explosions greet start of Olympic conference

BARCELONA — Two bombs exploded in central Barcelona yesterday as officials began a two-day meeting aimed at enhancing security at the 1992 Olympic Games, which are to be held in the Catalan capital (Reuters reports).

Officials from the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee said 10,000 extra police officers would be drafted in to the city to help protect athletes and the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected in 1992.

Faldo said he had recovered from a stomach problem that bothered him during last weekend's skins game in La Quinta, California.

"Most players will simply take the lake out of play by taking an extra club for the shot to the green," the Australian

approach shot at the

519-yard, 18th hole is over a small lake to a raised green that is now surrounded by hospitality boxes, which are close to the putting surface.

Many players are not expected to try to attack the flag but simply hammer the ball at the plastic-fronted corporate suites. They would then be allowed to lift without penalty, take a free drop and face a short chip to the hole.

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